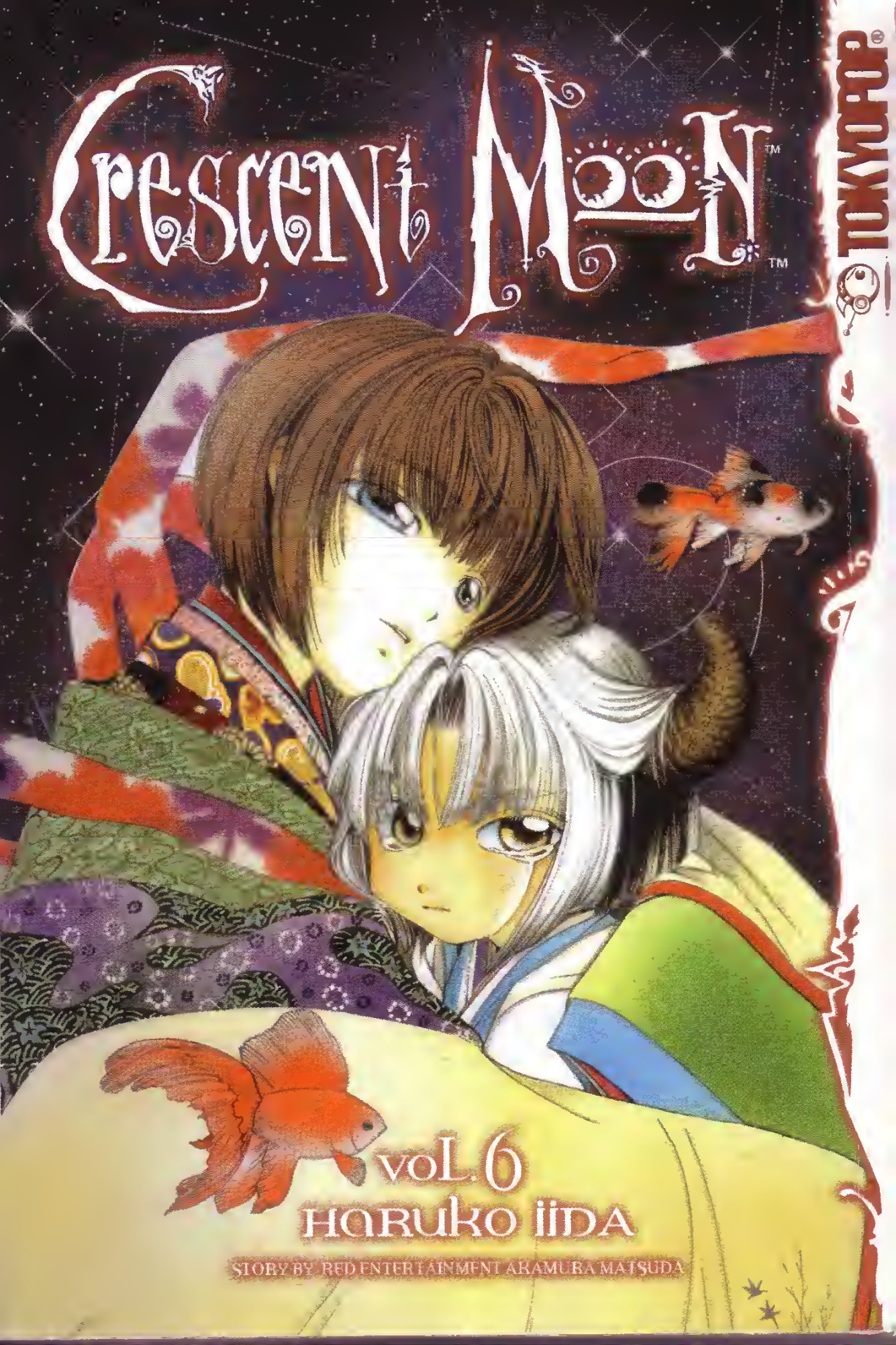
Crescent Moon™

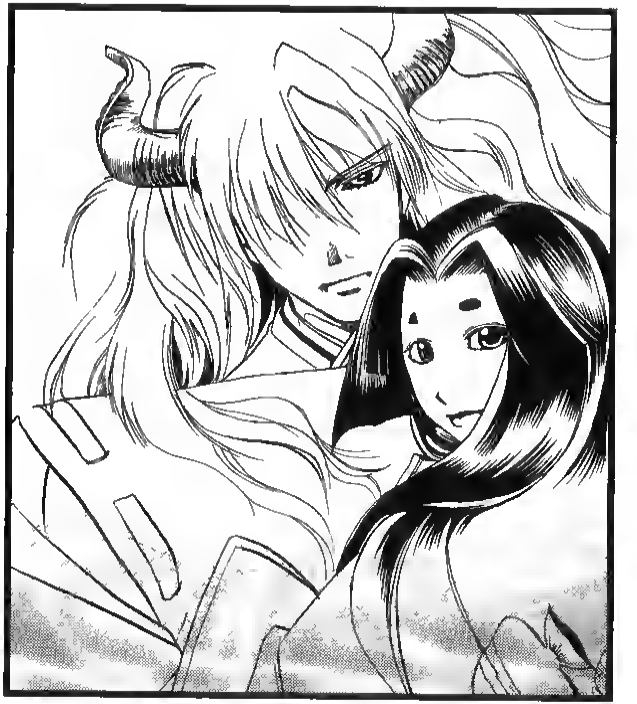


vol. 6

HARUKO IIDA

STORY BY RED ENTERTAINMENT ARAMURA MATSUDA

TOKYOPOP®



Crescent Moon

Haruko Iida

Original Works By

Red Entertainment/Takamura Matsuda

Volume 6

TOKYOPOP

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Haruko Iida

Script by

Red Entertainment / Takamura Matsuda

Translation - Nan Rymer
English Adaptation - Stuart Hazleton
Copy Editor - Suzanne Waldman
Retouch and Lettering - Lucas Rivera
Production Artist - Eric Pineda
Cover Design - Kyle Plummer

Editor - Bryce P. Coleman
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Pre-Press Manager - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller and Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
Editor-in-Chief - Mike Kiley
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher and C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

A TOKYOPOP Manga

TOKYOPOP Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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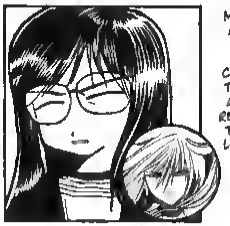
NOZOMU MOEGI
A VAMPIRE DESPITE HIS BLONDE HAIR AND BLUE EYES, HE SPEAKS WITH A KANSAI DIALECT. HE'S A SMOOTH TALKER AND LOVES THE LADIES

MITSURU SUOU
A TENGU. DUE TO A DARK AND PAINFUL CHILDHOOD, MITSURU DOESN'T JUST HATE THE HUMAN RACE, HE DISTRUSTS THE LUNAR ONE, AS WELL



MISOKA AGAGI
A FOX DEMON. ALWAYS COOL, CALM, COLLECTED AND TACIT, MISOKA ACTS--AND IS RESPECTED--AS THE UNSPOKEN LEADER OF THE GROUP

AKIRA YAMASUKI
A WEREWOLF. A HAPPY-GO-LUCKY FELLOW, AKIRA IS LOATH TO DWELL ON ANYTHING SERIOUS, OR DEEP, FOR TOO LONG. HE'S ALSO AN ACCOMPLISHED CHEF

OBORO KUROSAKI
OWNER OF THE BAR, MOONSHINE

KATSURA SHION
THE PIANIST FOR THE BAR, MOONSHINE

SHIROGANE
RULER OF THE LUNAR RACE, AND CURRENT EMPEROR OF THE MOON. HE'S ALSO OBORO'S NEPHEW

KIMITERU KUSAKABE
A POLICE INSPECTOR INVESTIGATING THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS

YOUKEI NISHINO
DETECTIVE KUSAKABE'S SUBORDINATE. HE'S A POLICE SERGEANT

HOKUTO KOUDOKUI
LEADER OF THE DEMON EXTERMINATION AND CAPTURING TROUPE, DAWN'S VENUS

MUTSURA HAYASHI
A MEMBER OF DAWN'S VENUS

KEIKO HIMURA
A MEMBER OF DAWN'S VENUS, KEIKO HAS THE POWER OF PROPHECY. SHE'S ALSO ONE OF MAHIRU'S CLASSMATES

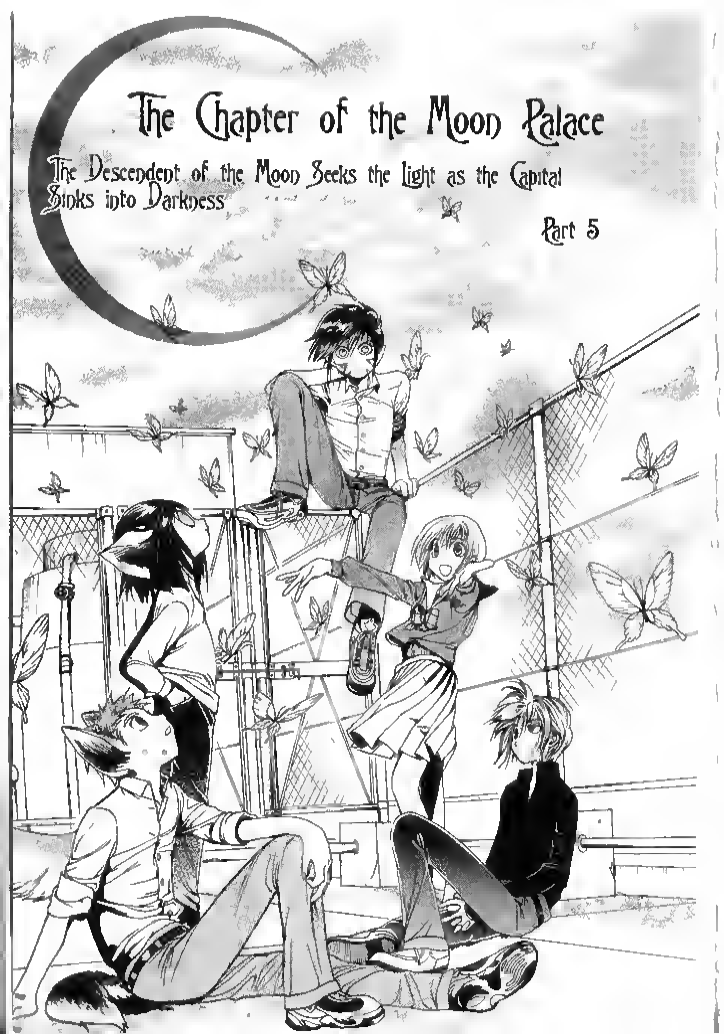
The Story So Far...

THE FOUR MYSTERIOUS YOUTHS WHO APPEAR BEFORE HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR MAHIRU SHIRAISHI ARE DEFINITELY NOT HUMAN. THEY'RE PART OF A PEOPLE KNOWN AS THE LUNAR RACE, AND MEMBERS OF A RING OF THIEVES NAMED THE MOONLIGHT BANDITS (WHO ARE CURRENTLY ALL THE BUZZ IN TOKYO). FROM THESE YOUTHS, MAHIRU LEARNS SHE IS THE DESCENDENT OF THE MINISTER OF THE LEFT'S PRINCESS--WHOSE ANCESTORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR STEALING THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON MANY YEARS AGO. BECAUSE OF THIS HERITAGE, MAHIRU DISCOVERS SHE POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO DISCOVER--AND STRENGTHEN--HIDDEN ABILITIES AND POWERS OF THE LUNAR RACE. ASKED BY THE FOUR TO ASSIST IN THEIR QUEST TO RECOVER THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON, MAHIRU MOVES IN WITH THE BANDITS TO LIVE AND WORK AT THEIR NIGHTCLUB CALLED MOONSHINE. GRADUALLY, MAHIRU BEGINS TO MULL OVER THE POSSIBILITY OF BECOMING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE HUMAN RACE AND THE LUNAR RACE.

BUT WITH EVERY PASSING SECOND, THE SITUATION FOR THE LUNAR RACE WORSENS. AT MOONSHINE, MISOKA FINDS HIMSELF WITHOUT THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM, AND, AT THE MOON PALACE, THE GREAT EMPRESS' LIFE HANGS BY A THREAD. IN HOPES OF SAVING THE GREAT EMPRESS, MAHIRU, ALONG WITH MITSURU AND MISOKA, HEAD TO THE MOON PALACE. ALAS, IT IS TOO LATE. THE GREAT EMPRESS, SPEWING THOUGHTS OF DESPAIR AND HATE, TAKES HER FINAL BREATH IN MAHIRU'S PRESENCE, CAUSING MAHIRU TO BE IMPRISONED BY MISOKA'S AUNT MASUMI. DURING THAT TIME, MAHIRU HEARS THE VOICE OF THE MINISTER OF THE LEFT'S PRINCESS, AND BEGINS TO UNRAVEL A TAPESTRY OF LIES WOVEN A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

●

MAHIRU SHIRAISHI
A JUNIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL. MAHIRU POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO AWAKEN AND DRAW OUT THE HIDDEN POWERS OF THE LUNAR RACE



The Chapter of the Moon Palace

The Descendent of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness

Part 5

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A Mysterious Lake Where the Moon, Stars and Sun Meet
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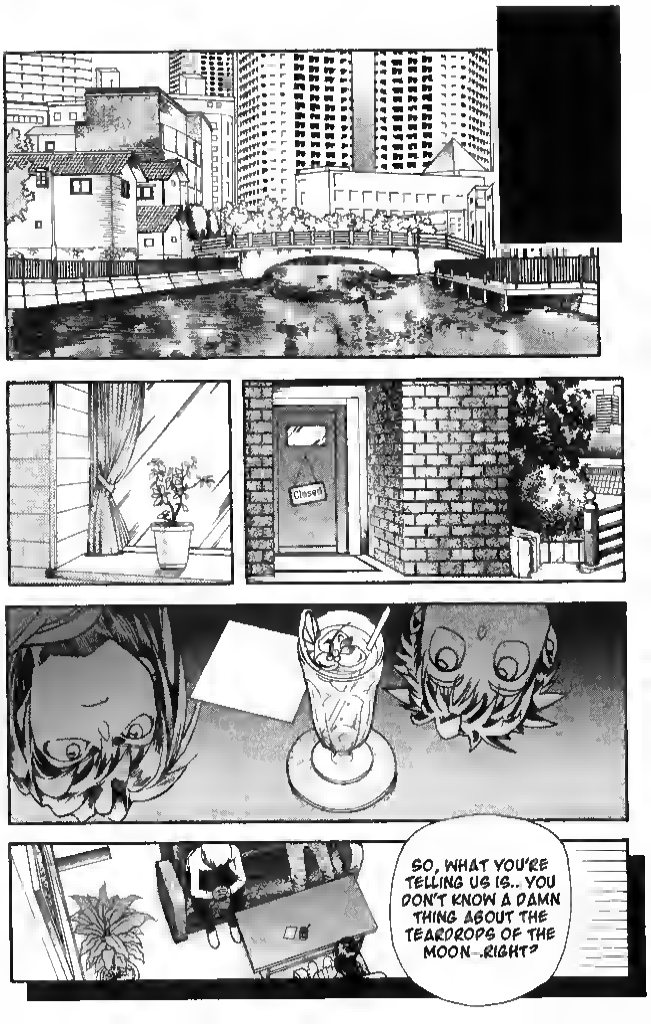
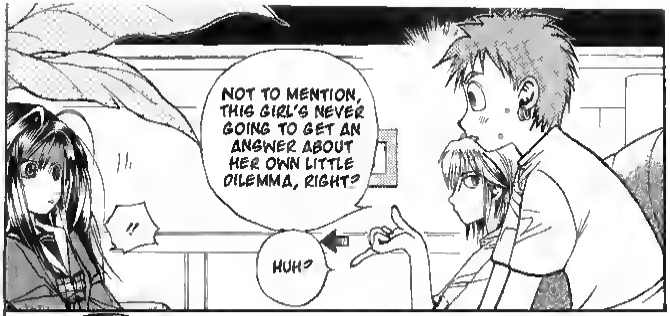
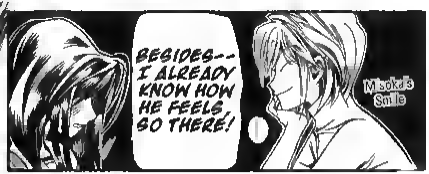
...!
NOR WHERE THE LAST ONE'S HIDING, CORRECT?
NOT ABOUT THE ONE THAT WAS STOLEN YESTERDAY
I'M JUST A TOOL TO HOKUTO.
AND EVERYONE KNOWS-- ASK A TOOL QUESTIONS AND YOU END UP WITH NOTHING.
COME ON, NOZOMU LET KEIKO GO ALREADY
...!
I'm going to the Moon Palace with Katsura, so I'm leaving you in charge of the Morning Star
Oboro


Closed
SO, WHAT YOU'RE TELLING US IS.. YOU DON'T KNOW A DAMN THING ABOUT THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON--RIGHT?


NOT TO MENTION, THIS GIRL'S NEVER GOING TO GET AN ANSWER ABOUT HER OWN LITTLE DILEMMA, RIGHT?
HUH?

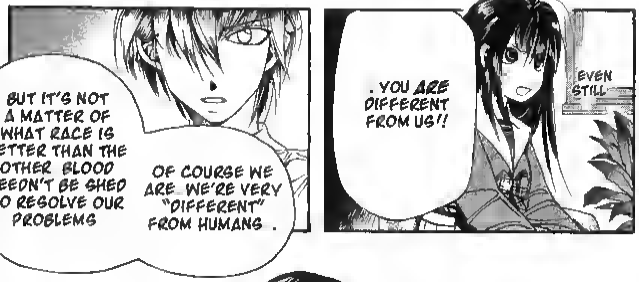
COME, NOW...
LET'S BE HONEST FOR ONCE, SHALL WE?
IF YOU WERE REALLY OVER "IT," THEN THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY REASON FOR YOU TO WORRY, RIGHT?

OH!! THA--THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!!
ABOUT HOW HOKUTO REALLY FEELS ABOUT YOU..?
YOU DO WANT TO KNOW, DON'T YOU..?

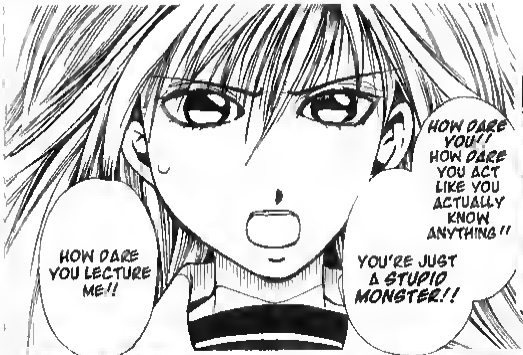

BESIDES--I ALREADY KNOW HOW HE FEELS, SO THERE!
Mizuki's Smile

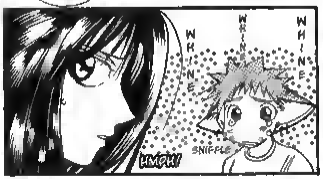
I...I'M GOING TO THE MOON PALACE WITH KATSURA. SO I'M LEAVING YOU IN CHARGE OF THE MORNING STAR
AND LET YOU GO? NOPE--SORRY. THAT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN ANYTIME SOON
IF WE LET YOU GO--AND YOU DECIDE TO SPILL YOUR GUTS TO THAT HOKUTO--THEN WE'LL BE AT A DISADVANTAGE AGAIN

NOZOMI!!
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO KEIKO?!
IF WE JUST UP AND RETURN HER TO YOU-KNOW-WHO, THEN WE'LL BE LEFT WITH NOT KNOWING A SINGLE THING.
WELL, NOW...LET'S THINK THAT THROUGH FOR A SECOND


BUT IT'S NOT A MATTER OF WHAT RACE IS BETTER THAN THE OTHER. BLOOD NEEDN'T BE SHED TO RESOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.
OF COURSE WE ARE. WE'RE VERY "DIFFERENT" FROM HUMANS.
YOU ARE DIFFERENT FROM US!!
EVEN STILL

FIRST THING'S FIRST...WE HAVE TO RECOVER THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON TO RESTORE OUR POWERS.
THING IS, THOUGH--EVEN AS WE SPEAK, THE SITUATION BECOMES INCREASINGLY MORE DIRE FOR OUR PEOPLE.


HOW DARE YOU LECTURE ME!!
HOW DARE YOU!! HOW DARE YOU ACT LIKE YOU ACTUALLY KNOW ANYTHING!!
YOU'RE JUST A STUPID MONSTER!!
GRR...


WHINE... WHINE... WHINE...
SNIFFLE
HMPH!

A STUPID MONSTER...
GULP!

TAKE THIS PUPPY, FOR INSTANCE.
HECK--SOME MIGHT SAY THAT WE'RE MORE OPEN AND HONEST ABOUT OUR FEELINGS AND EMOTIONS THAN EVEN YOU HUMANS.
HMM?

WHEN WE'RE SAD, WE CRY. WHEN WE'RE HAPPY, WE LAUGH. WE CAN LOVE AND WE CAN HATE.
YES, YES, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.
TRUE, WE'RE NOT HUMANS--
--BUT INSIDE, WE'RE REALLY NOT ALL THAT DIFFERENT, YOU KNOW?

FIND THE PRINCESS AND MITSUKU AFTER THAT, GO MEET UP WITH NOZOMU AND THE OTHERS
CHU?
パ
パ
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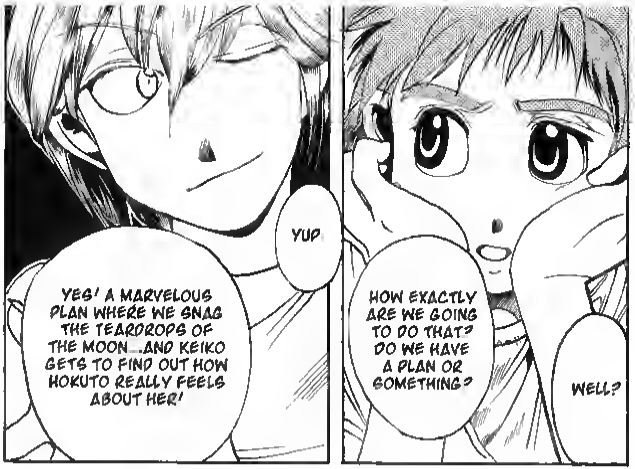
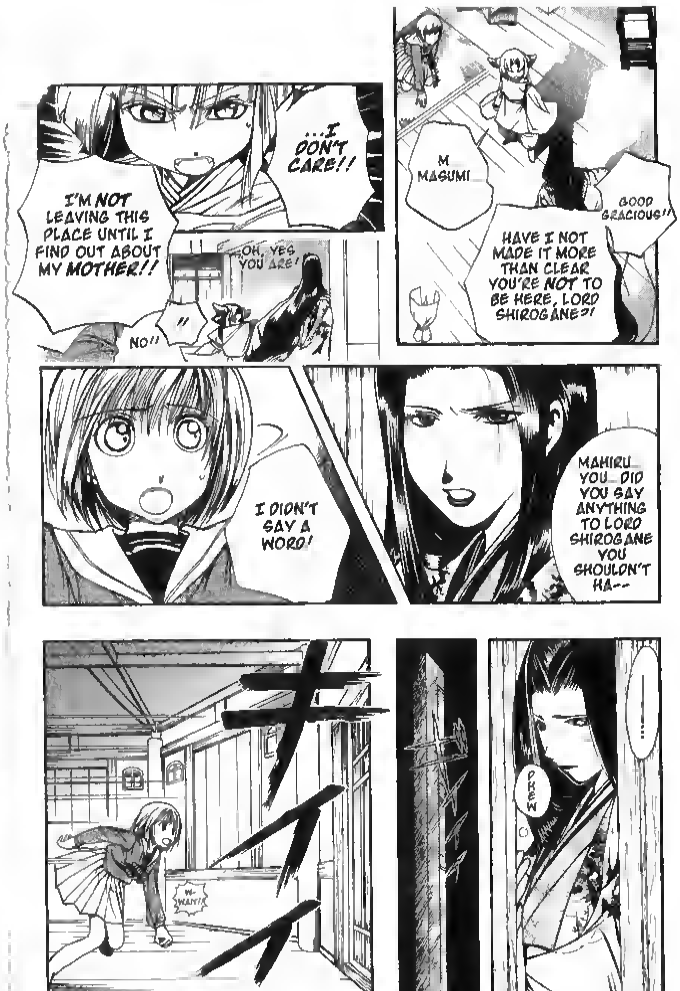
パ


YES! A MARVELOUS PLAN WHERE WE SNAG THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON...AND KEIKO GETS TO FIND OUT HOW HOKUTO REALLY FEELS ABOUT HER!
YUP
HOW EXACTLY ARE WE GOING TO DO THAT? DO WE HAVE A PLAN OR SOMETHING?
WELL?

IT IS A TAD ON THE RECKLESS SIDE...
OF COURSE...

MASUMI!
SHE NEVER TELLS ME ANYTHING
W-WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM I HEARD?!
IS MY MOTHER OKAY?!
SHE ALWAYS SAYS THAT MY MOTHER IS "JUST FINE"-- BUT NEVER WITH AN AIR OF TRUTH...
OH MY GOSH...! WHAT DO I DO?!
I CAN'T JUST TELL A SMALL CHILD--THAT HIS MOTHER'S DEAD!!
...I JU...T CAN'T!
I THOUGHT I WANTED TO TELL THE EMPEROR THE TRUTH ABOUT HIS MOTHER, BUT ..
YOU MET MY MOTHER, DIDN'T YOU?
H-HOW WAS SHE?
YOUR HIGH-NESS
YOU THERE--WHERE IS THE EMPEROR?
RIGHT INSIDE, MA'AM
AH, YES
.....

SILENCE, GIRL!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR SILLY RAMBLINGS!!
THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU...! SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL EVERYONE HERE...!
WAIT, MAGUMI!! PLEASE...!
HUH?!
KYAAH!!


...I DON'T CARE!!
I'M NOT LEAVING THIS PLACE UNTIL I FIND OUT ABOUT MY MOTHER!!
...OH, YES YOU ARE!
NO!!
M-MAGUMI
GOOD GRACIOUS!!
HAVE I NOT MADE IT MORE THAN CLEAR YOU'RE NOT TO BE HERE, LORD SHIROGANE?!
I DIDN'T SAY A WORD!
MAHIRU... YOU... DID YOU SAY ANYTHING TO LORD SHIROGANE YOU SHOULDN'T HA--
W-WAIT!
MEW

Y-YOU!! WHAT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
AAHHH!! AAHH!!
UNHAND THE EMPEROR, IMMEDIATELY!!
ピュウウ
ウウ
ズー
めきめき
めきめき

UWWAAAAHH
AAAAHHHH!!
WAAAAAH
H
GASP!

THE MOON PALACE IS PROTECTED BY A POWERFUL BARRIER! YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE!!
AAH...
HMPH SO DROP IT.
Uh?..

TH-THE WIND...
HURRY!!
THAT'S ENOUGH! COME MITSURU! LET'S GO— NOW!!
KYAAHHHHHHHH!!

IF YOU WANT HIM TO LIVE.. THEN DROP THE BARRIER.
STOP IT, MITSURU!! DON'T!!
HUH?
YOU!!
KYA!
GAWAR!

MITSURU!! WHAT ABOUT MISOKA?!
HE'LL BE FINE ON HIS OWN!
BUT...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING JUST STANDING THERE?! FOLLOW THEM!! QUICKLY!!
I COULDN'T HELP THE GREAT EMPRESS, BUT...BUT I HAVE TO HELP HIM!
...HIS HIGHNESS THE LEAST I CAN DO IS HELP HIM...
IF I ACTUALLY POSSESS THE POWER THEY SAY I DO, THEN PLEASE...!

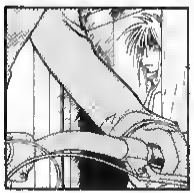
COUGH!
COUGH!
COUGH!
COUGH!
HACK!
COUGH!
!!
LORD SHIROGANE ? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
STOP...!! STOP FIRING THIS INSTANT!! LORD SHIROGANE IS--

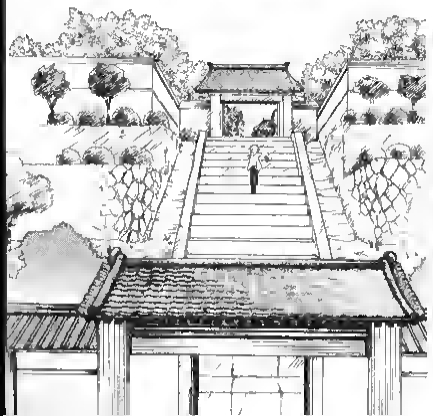
OKAY
HURRY UP OR I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND!
DID YOU DID YOU HEAL HER, TOO? WITH YOUR POWERS?
WAIT
MITSURU!! DON'T!!
YOUR MOTHER...
THAT FOX DEMON . HE SAID YOUR WELL.. THAT YOUR MOTHER WAS DEAD.

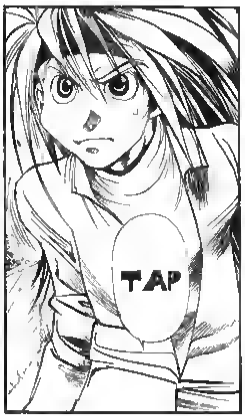
WE'LL LEAVE HIM HERE SOMEONE'S BOUND TO FIND HIM EVENTUALLY
MITSURU-- WAIT!
OH!
HUH?! MY COUGH!! IT'S GONE!!
AND MY BODY SUDDENLY FEELS SO LIGHT
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?
LEAVE ME ALONE!!

WHA
DAMN YOU, MITSURU!! HOW COULD YOU?!
!
I'M SO SORRY THAT I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING
I'M SORRY. I'M SOOO SORRY
MOTHER!! AAHHH!!

M-MY MOTHER.? NO..
SHE CAN'T BE NO...
IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE THE DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS! YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HEAL HER !!
IT WAS TOO LATE I SUGGEST YOU CHECK IT OUT YOURSELF WHEN YOU GET BACK
STOP IT!



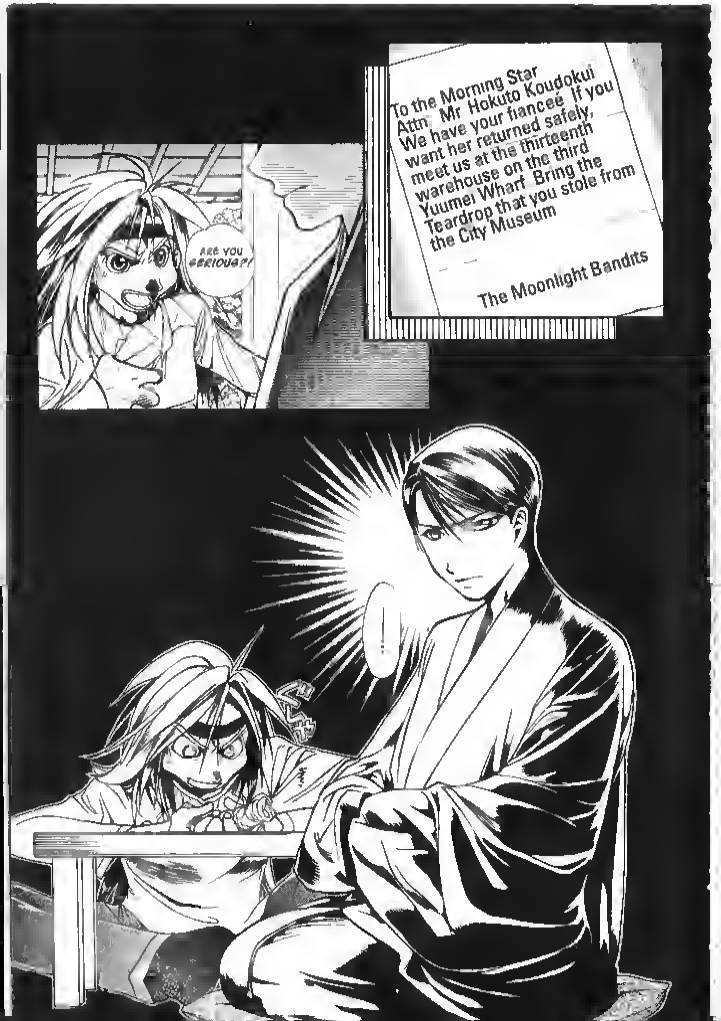


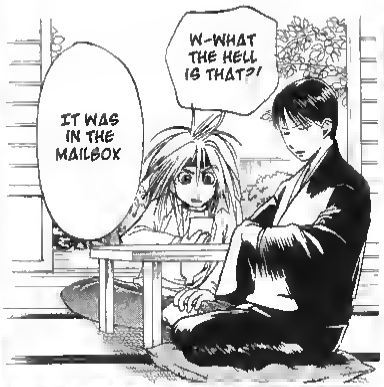

TAP

あ
あ
あ
MY MOTHER... IS GONE!!
NO.. I DON'T WANT THIS...I-IT CAN'T BE! I DON'T.. IT'S NOT FAIR!!
THEY TOLD ME SHE'D GET BETTER!! THAT MY BEING THERE WOULD MAKE IT WORSE!! AND THAT'S WHY... WHY I DIDN'T GO... TO SEE HER... EVEN THOUGH I WANTED TO, SO BADLY!!
I'M SO SORRY I COULDN'T HELP YOUR MOTHER...
I-I TRIED MY BEST... BUT IT JUST WASN'T ENOUGH... I'M SO SORRY... CAN YOU EVER FORGIVE ME..?

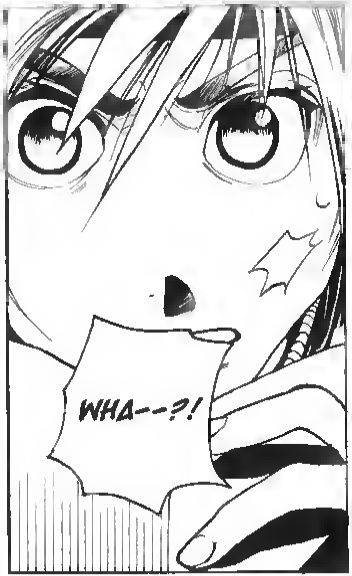
HUH!
WAAAAH!!

UWAAH!! AAAAH!!

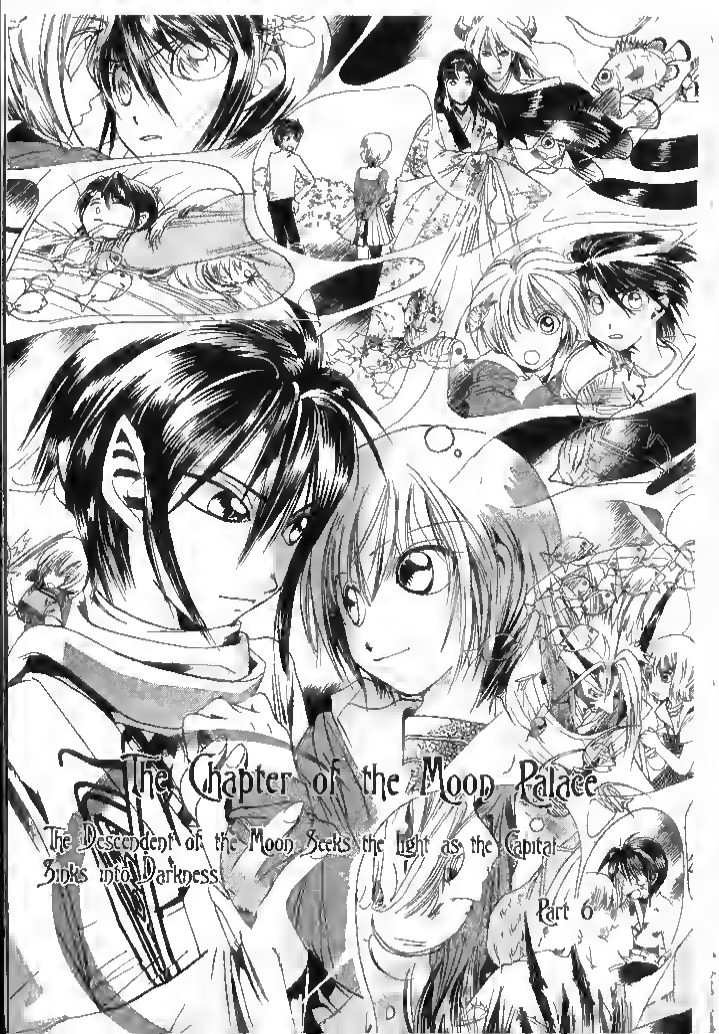

ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
To the Morning Star
Attn: Mr Hokuto Koudokui
We have your fiancee. If you want her returned safely, meet us at the thirteenth warehouse on the third Yuumei Wharf. Bring the Teardrop that you stole from the City Museum
The Moonlight Bandits


W-WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
IT WAS IN THE MAILBOX

WHAT'S GOING ON, HOKUTO? I THOUGHT WE WERE GOING TO LAY LOW FOR A WHILE, Y'KNOW? SO THE COPS WOULDN'T SUSPECT ANYTHING?


WHA--?!

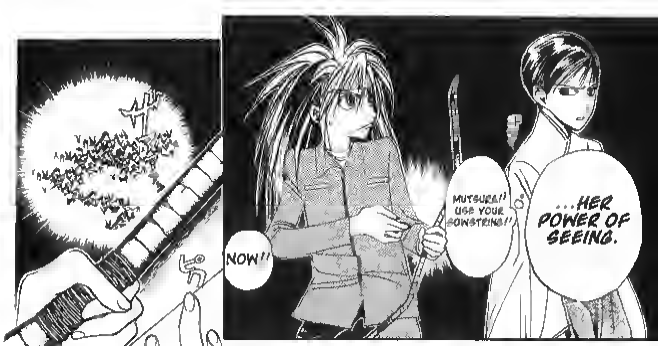
!!


The Chapter of the Moon Palace
The Descendent of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness
Part 6

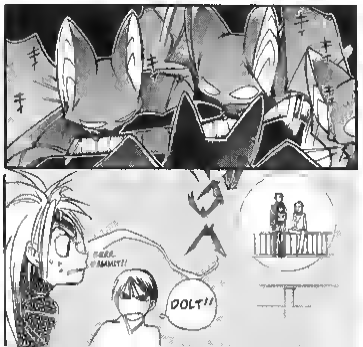
H... HOKUTO...
KEIKO...!
THAT IS, IF YOU VALUE THIS GIRL'S LIFE!
WELL, THEN...HOW ABOUT YOU HAND OVER THAT TEAR OF THE MOON YOU SNATCHED FROM THE CITY MUSEUM, HUH...?
AND REALLY, IF YOU MUST KNOW...ALL I EVER REALLY WANTED FROM HER WAS...
YOU MUST BE CONFUSED. THAT GIRL IS NO LONGER BETROTHED TO ME.

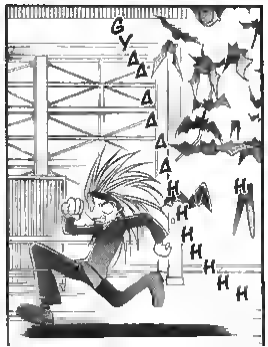
WHERE ARE YOU?! WE KNOW YOU'RE HERE!! SO SHOW YOURSELVES, YOU DAMNED FOLK OF THE MOON!!
!!

ALL RIGHT, AKIRA! DO YOUR TRANSFORMATION!
EH?
RAWRRR!!
KYAHHH!!
AAAHH!!


NOW!!
MUTSUKI!! USE YOUR SORCERING!!
...HER POWER OF SEEING.

GEH?!
HUH?!


DOLT!!


GYAAAAAAHHHHHHHH

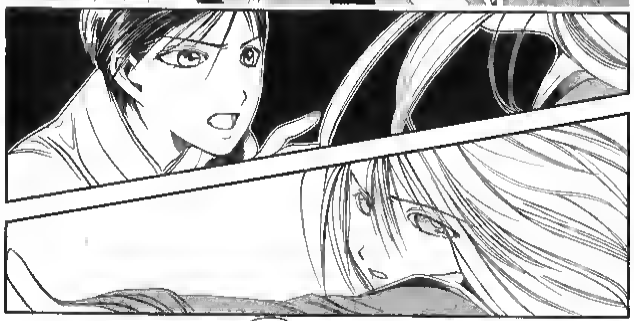
SUCH ADMIRABLE DETERMINATION IS THAT WHY YOU WERE EVEN WILLING TO BECOME A CRIMINAL TO STOP US?
—IN ACHIEVING THIS GOAL!
NO SACRIFICE IS TOO GREAT
!!
HAH!!
KEIKO!!
!!
KEIKO?! HOW DID YOU GET THERE?!
HOKUTO
WHAT'S WRONG?
FIRST THOSE DAMN BATS— AND NOW A WOLF?!
HIII!!
GUN
HOKUTO
MY SOLE PURPOSE IN LIFE IS TO ERADICATE YOUR KIND FROM THIS WORLD!
I THOUGHT SHE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU ANYMORE
SHIKT
SAY.. ISN'T THERE A WORD FOR THAT IN YOUR TONGUE? WHAT WAS IT— ? OH, I REMEMBER NOW... MONSTER. THAT'S THE WORD I WAS LOOKING FOR
AND NOW YOU'RE WILLING TO LET GO OF THIS CUTE LITTLE GIRL WHO LOVES YOU SO MUCH?
GYAHHH!

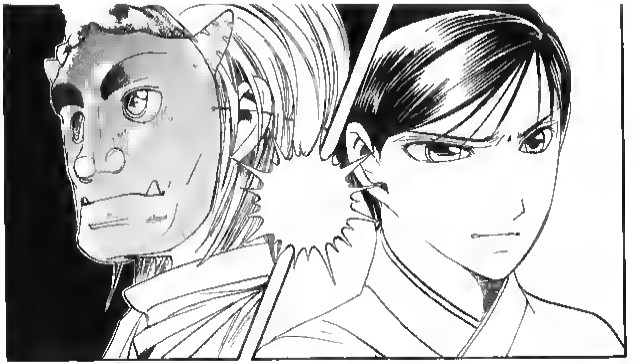
STOP!!
HELP ME BIG BROTHER
ALL RIGHT! YOU WIN!! I'VE GOT THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON, RIGHT HERE...!!

NO..
SO. SINCE YOU DON'T WANT HER... PERHAPS I SHOULD EAT HER ALIVE, INSTEAD!
Y-YOU'RE THE MONSTERS!!! YOU!!
OW OW OW OW OW!! GYAAHH!!
HOPE!
HOPE!
THAT'S RIGHT. WE ARE MONSTERS FOR INSTANCE. DID YOU KNOW THAT FOR OUR KIND HUMAN FLESH EXTENDS OUR LIFE?
IT'S TRUE HER FLESH WOULD EXTEND MY LIFE BY AT LEAST A HUNDRED YEARS
AND GIRLS AS PRETTY AS THIS... I HEAR ARE EXCEPTIONALLY TASTY

SO EITHER I CHOW DOWN...OR YOU TELL US WHERE THAT ONE IS, TOO!
BUT THAT'S NOT THE ONLY ONE. NOW IS IT?
YOU KNOW THE LOCATION OF THE OTHER PIECE, DON'T YOU?

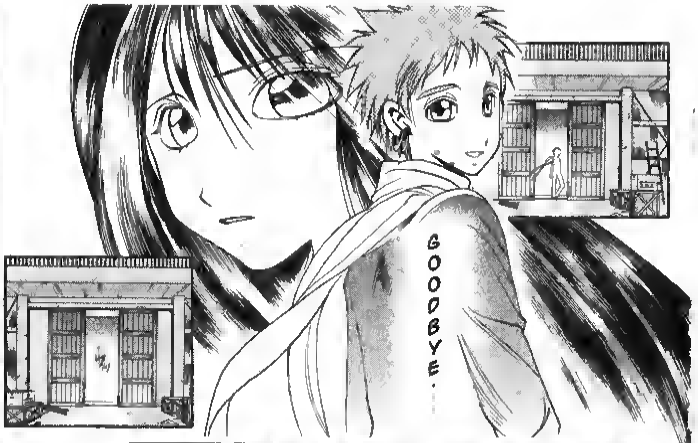
HMM...VERY WELL..
AH

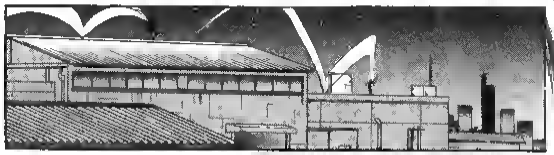




THE OTHER PIECE...WHICH MY ANCESTORS HAVE PROTECTED THROUGHOUT THE AGES...IS AT THE BOTTOM OF LAKE BIWA!
LAKE BIWA?

I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ELSE, YOU BASTARD!! I SWEAR IT!!
カラン
カン
YOU'VE GOTTEN WHAT YOU WANT! LET HER GO! SHE'S OF NO MORE USE TO YOU!!
IT WAS SEALED THERE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEIJI PERIOD!!
YES!


GOODBYE.



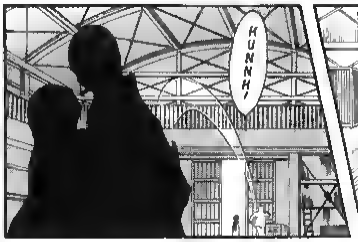
HELL! I KNOW IT'S RIGHT, BUT
THAT WAS GOOD, RIGHT? THAT WAS GOOD FOR KEIKO, RIGHT?! WHAT WE DID?!

AKIRA
ARE YOU CRYING?

BUT IF IT IS RIGHT, THEN WHY CAN'T I STOP CRYING?!

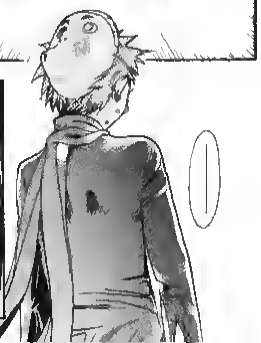
BIG BROTHER

KEIKO?! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!


HUNNH!

OW, OW, OW... I THINK I HAVE A HERNIA

AH... AKIRA



すいいいっっ
I WONDER HOW NOZOMU AND AKIRA ARE DOING RIGHT NOW.
BATS.

AWW, GO ON AND CRY AS MUCH AS YOU WANT TO.
IT JUST MEANS THAT YOU'VE GROWN-UP A SMIDGE, THAT'S ALL.
NOW I JUST HOPE MISOKA AND THE OTHERS DID THEIR PARTS.

THEY...THEY PLAN ON KILLING ME TO REGAIN THE POWER OF THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON
I OVERHEARD THAT FOX DEMON TALKING TO THE MEMBERS OF HER COURT

I HAVE NO IDEA. WE'RE TOO FAR OUT TO TELL
THERE'S NOTHING THAT EVEN RESEMBLES A LIGHT FOR ME TO GET MY BEARINGS.
MITSURU...HOW WAS IT? DO YOU KNOW WHERE WE ARE?

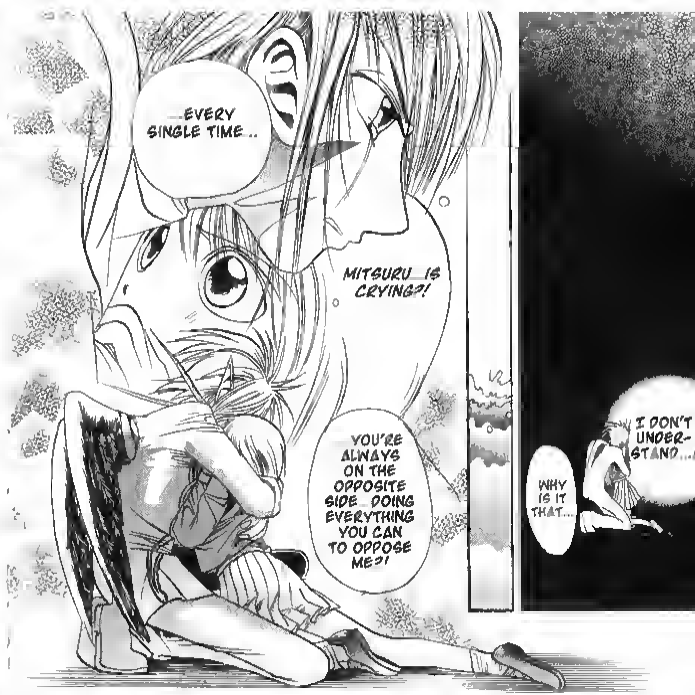
Panda Mahiru's Rage!!

ALL THEY CARE ABOUT IS THE MOON PALACE AND THE MOON EMPEROR.
SIGH
THEN YOU GO, MITSURU!!
SO THINK ABOUT IT--IF YOU GO BACK TO THAT PLACE-- WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY'LL DO TO YOU?
GOD! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
HAVE YOU EVEN HEARD A WORD I'VE SAID?!

THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HIM!
KILLING... YOU..?
NO POINT WORRYING ABOUT THAT NOW. WE HAVE TO FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS PLACE. THEY MIGHT HAVE SENT TROOPS-- OR WHO KNOWS WHAT ELSE-- AFTER US.

THE PRINCESS. SHE WAS IN LOVE WITH THE DEMON, AFTER ALL
.....
BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED. AND THEIR LOVE COULDN'T BE
...HAVE BEEN FIGHTING OVER A MISTAKE A MISTAKE SHE'S TERRIBLY DISTRAUGHT ABOUT AND SIMPLY WANTS TO MAKE RIGHT
GRAB
TO THINK THAT ALL THIS TIME HUMANS AND THE LUNAR RACE
I...I DON'T UNDER-STAND...! I JUST DON'T GET IT...!
"
THAT'S REALLY IT, DON'T YOU SEE...?
OH, MITSURU. RIGHT NOW, I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND HOW THE PRINCESS FEELS
I LOVE ALL OF YOU GUYS AND I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE I LOVE!
I...I MET HER WHEN I WAS LOCKED IN THE CELL AND I HEARD HER
I HEARD THE VOICE OF THE MINISTER OF THE LEFT'S PRINCESS MY SPIRIT GUIDE.
"WHICH, AFTER 1,000 FULL MOONS PASSED...
PROMISED TO REUNITE IN A FUTURE LIFE" THESE LINES MEAN "WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN ANOTHER LIFE," RIGHT?
WHY'RE YOU SO DAMNED DETER-MINED?!
I'LL BE OKAY, MITSURU
Which, after 1,000 full moons passed...
...promised to reunite in a future life.

IN FACT, I'M BEYOND HAPPY!!
MITSURU I..
I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW TO SAY THIS, BUT I'M SO HAPPY... AND I DO BELIEVE IN YOU!


...EVERY SINGLE TIME..
MITSURU IS CRYING?!
YOU'RE ALWAYS ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE DOING EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO OPPOSE ME?!
WHY IS IT THAT...
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...

!!
WHY CAN'T YOU JUST BE MY PRINCESS?!

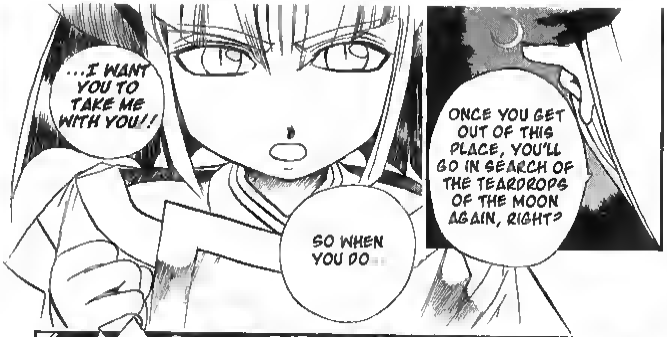
M-MITSURU?
WHY CAN'T YOU SAY YOU CHOOSE ME AND ME ALONE?!
YOU TELL ME TO TRUST HUMANS..SO WHY CAN'T YOU TRUST ME?! WHY CAN'T YOU JUST FOLLOW ME?!

SO THAT'S WHAT IT WAS, HUH, MAHIRU?
I'M NOT COMPARING YOU TO MISOKA! I MEAN...FROM THE MOMENT I MET YOU...
HAH! NO! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!!
URRGH! WELL...
SO I TAKE IT THAT IT'S OKAY WITH YOU IF MISOKA GETS KILLED?!
THEN WHY?!
I WAS PRETTY SURE THAT, WELL THAT I LIKED YOU, TOO
SHEESH. WHO'S THE REAL MONSTER HERE?

.....
COME ON! LET'S GO!
MITSURU...I I HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE MOON PALACE

ゆさ
ゆさ
HUH? AWW, COME ON! WHY NOT?! YOU DO KNOW, DON'T YOU? SO COME ON! PLEASE?! TAKE US TO MISOKA!
プル
プル
プル
AND REMEMBER--DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH ME
HEY.
まゆろ
まゆろ
!!

WOW--HOW BEAUTIFUL!
I KNOW..
URRM.. ER..
THE SCENERY IS STUNNING, BUT-- WE'VE COME ALL THE WAY BACK HERE ONLY TO REALIZE--THAT WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE MISOKA IS
NOT GONNA TELL, NO WAY, NOPEE!
NOT GONNA TELL YA, NO SIRREE!
UM, MR BAT? YOU KNOW WHERE MISOKA IS, DON'T YOU?
CHU!
SO CAN YOU TAKE US TO WHERE HE IS, MR BAT?

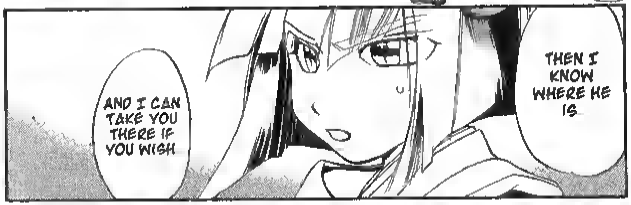

...I WANT YOU TO TAKE ME WITH YOU!!
SO WHEN YOU DO...
ONCE YOU GET OUT OF THIS PLACE, YOU'LL GO IN SEARCH OF THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON AGAIN, RIGHT?

WHAT?!

!!
!

THIS MISOKA YOU SPEAK OF IS MAGUMI'S NEPHEW— A HALF-BREED, IS HE NOT?
YES... YES HE IS.

YOUR HIGHNESS!!


AND I CAN TAKE YOU THERE IF YOU WISH.
THEN I KNOW WHERE HE IS.

WHAT?!
BUT ONLY ON ONE CONDITION—

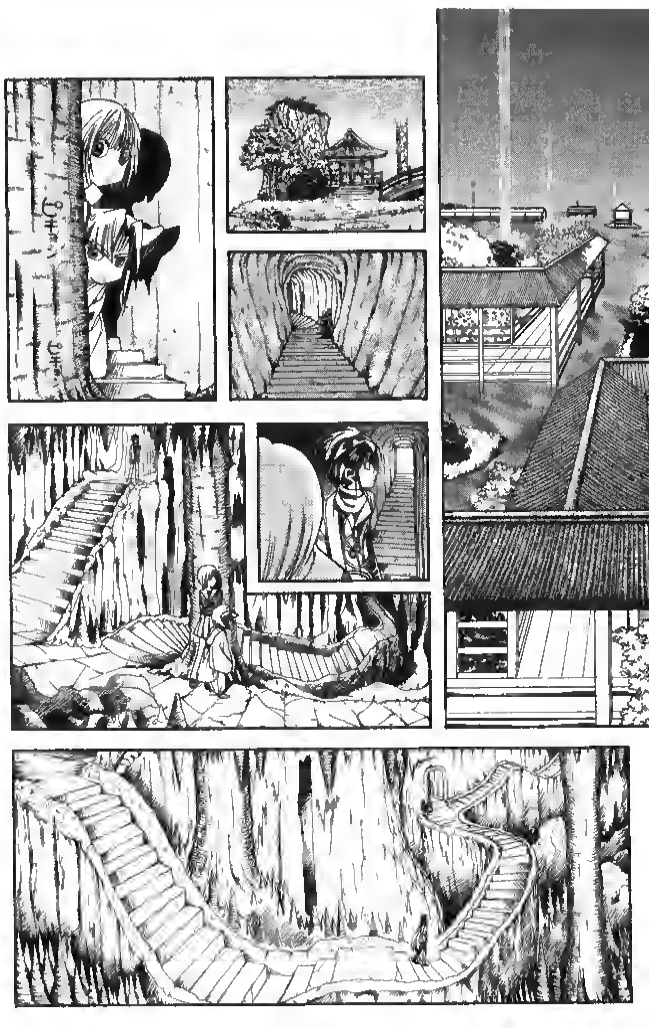
MOON SHINE

The Chapter of the Moon Palace

The Descendent of the Moon Seeks the Light as the Capital Sinks into Darkness

Part 7

AH, YOUR HIGHNESS!! WAIT!!
THAT LITTLE TENGU—
—MANAGED TO RUN OFF AND TAKE THE DESCENDENT OF THE PRINCESS AND THE MOON EMPEROR WITH HIM!

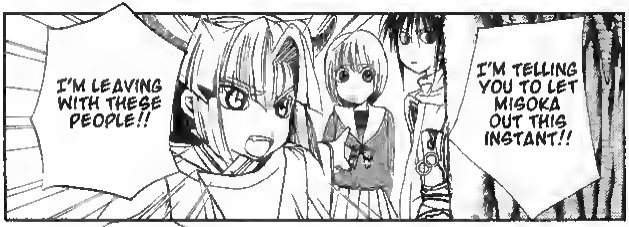


HEY, MASUMI!!
L-LORD SHIROGANE!!
!!
MASUMI! TELL ME HOW TO OPEN THAT CELL!
I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE SAFE!!

I'VE SENT SOLDIERS TO SEARCH FOR HIM
BUT IF I FIND SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO LORD SHIROGANE THEN I'LL FIND IT HARD TO FORGIVE YOU AND THAT GIRL.
OR THAT LITTLE TENGU AND LORD OBORO, EITHER!!
OH YES...I'LL MAKE SURE YOU ALL PAY!!

...I'M GOING TO DO EXACTLY WHAT I WANT!!
FROM NOW ON...
WHA--?
URRGH!
Y-YOU...
...INSOLENT LITTLE--!
めき
めき
めき

YOU
PRINCESS... WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED?


I'M LEAVING WITH THESE PEOPLE!!
I'M TELLING YOU TO LET MISOKA OUT THIS INSTANT!!

ALL YOU DID WAS LIE TO ME THIS ENTIRE TIME!!
I'M NOT GOING TO BELIEVE A WORD YOU SAY TO ME ANYMORE!!
B-BUT YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE, YOUR HIGHNESS!

AUNTIE!
HOW COULD WE LEAVE WITHOUT YOU, MISOKA?
PRINCESS! WHY'D YOU COME BACK?!
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE OF THE LUNAR OR HUMAN!
YOU'RE MISOKA--AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS!
PRINCESS
OF ALL THE STUPID THINGS! DON'T YOU SEE THAT WITHOUT MY POWERS, I'M NO BETTER THAN A HUMAN?!
I'M OF NO USE TO YOU ANYMORE! I'LL ONLY SLOW YOU DOWN!!
MISOKA, PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!!
HAH!!

KYAAH!
UWAAH!
GIVE LORD SHIROGANE BACK!!
ゴオオオオオ
BAM!
YAAHH!

ゴゴゴゴゴ
I'M AFRAID IT'S TOO LITTLE TOO LATE.
SHE ALWAYS HAD YOU IN HER THOUGHTS
YOU MAY CHOOSE NOT TO BELIEVE ME, AUNTIE...BUT...MY MOTHER...
CAN YOU GUYS HEAR ME...?
ANYONE THERE?
HEY!
HELLO?

MITSURU!! TAKE THE PRINCESS AND RUN!!
I'LL HANDLE MY AUNT!!
BUT--!!
HOW DARE YOU TRY TO STEAL AWAY, LORD SHIROGANE!!
YOU ALWAYS TAKE THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS AWAY FROM ME!!
ゴゴゴゴゴ
MASUMI...YOU KNOW FULL WELL MISOKA PLAYED NO PART IN MAYUMI HAVING TO LEAVE YOU!
IF YOU WANT TO BLAME SOMEONE, BLAME THE MOON PALACE FOR NOT ACCEPTING HER CONCEIVING A CHILD WITH A HUMAN!
BUT OF COURSE, YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT, DION'T YOU?!
ENOUGH!
OBORO
OBORO

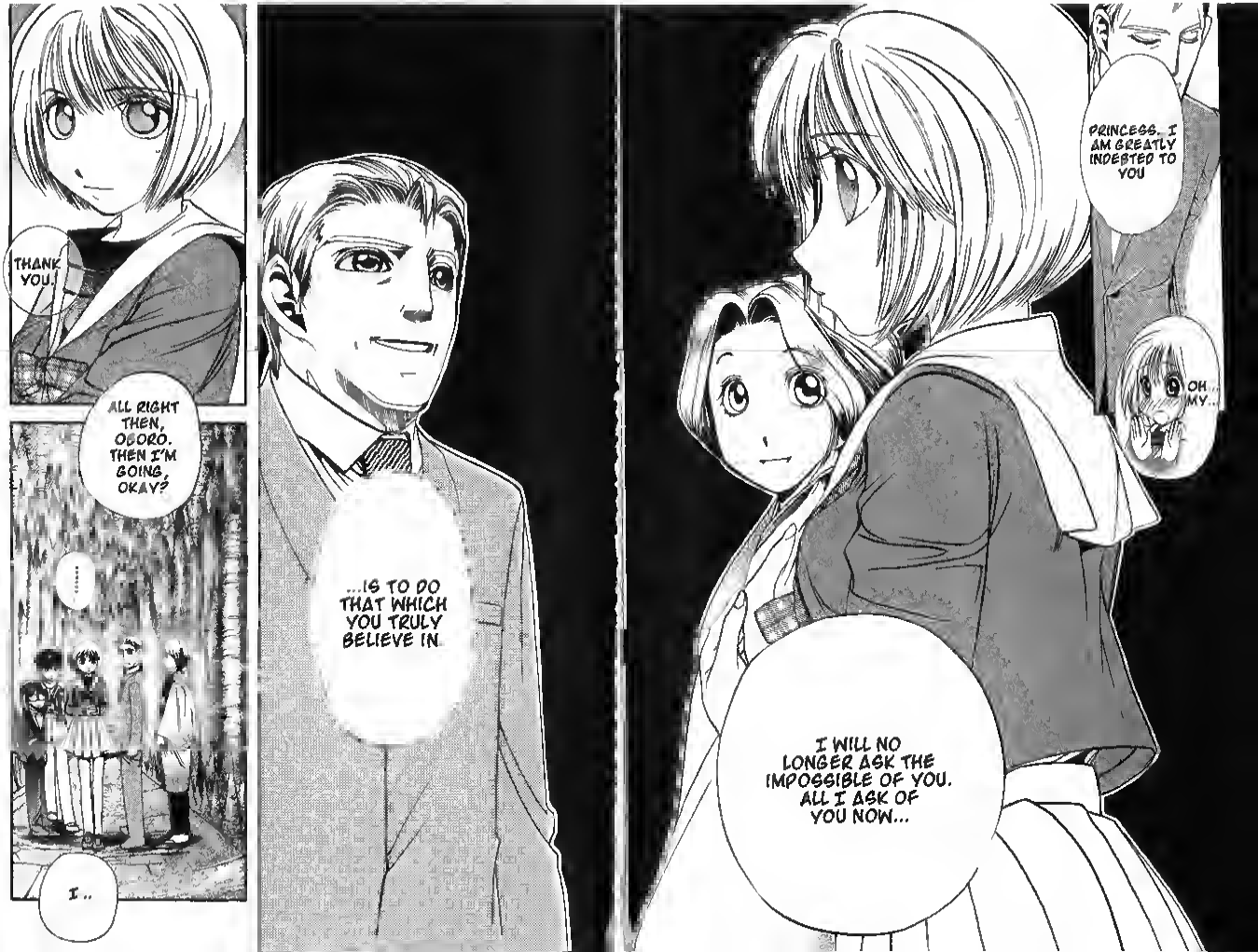
THEN... THEN
OH, BE QUIET!!
NO! YOU MUSTN'T! NOT WITH YOUR HEALTH THE WAY IT IS!
IF ANYTHING WERE TO HAPPEN TO YOU, SHIROGANE, I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGIVE MYSELF!!
THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO WAY, NO HOW!! I MEAN, WHO IN THEIR RIGHT MIND WOULD--
MITSURU, WAIT...
!!
I.. I THINK THAT'S A GREAT IDEA.
WHAT?!
PLEASE TAKE ME WITH YOU!

SO YOU'RE GOING TO LAKE BIWA?
THAT'S RIGHT
WE WERE THINKING OF HEADING OUT TOMORROW.
WHAT ABOUT YOU GUYS? EVERYTHING KOSHER ON YOUR END?
.....
AND YOU, LOVE SHIROGANE?
...WITH MY OWN EYES!
I'M COMING, TOO. I MUST SEE THE TRUTH...

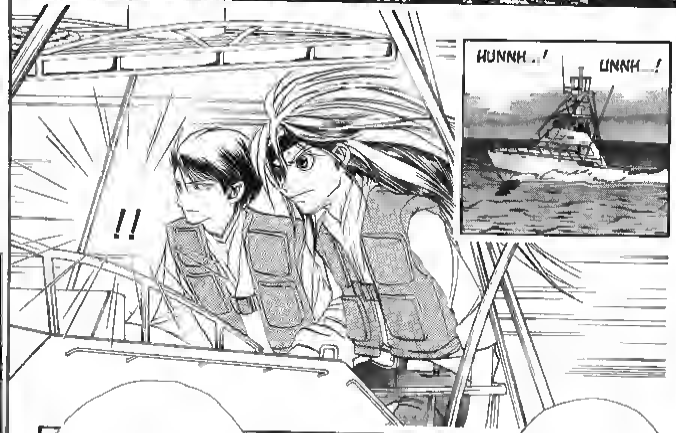
BACK THEN, ALL I CARED ABOUT WAS MYSELF.
OSORO
A LONG TIME AGO...WHEN I WAS STILL YOUNG...THE WOMAN I LOVED...
...CHOSE MY BROTHER OVER ME. ENRAGED, I LEFT THE MOON PALACE.
BUT THAT ONE RASH MISTAKE FROM MY YOUTH...
...ENABLED ME TO BE WITH ALL OF YOU TODAY.
..THIS TEARDROP AT LAKE BIWA MIGHT BE THE FINAL PIECE AFTER ALL
I MEAN...
!!
YES. I AGREE. WE SHOULD ALL GO
!!
MAGUMI.. I WANT YOU TO SEE JUST HOW HARD MISOKA AND MITSURU..
AND EVERYONE ELSE HAS BEEN WORKING THIS ENTIRE TIME!

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP SOMETHING THAT HAS ALREADY STARTED
GRR
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
-HE-

MITSURU...
THANK YOU
MISOKA...
WE HAVE LIVED LONG IN THIS PLACE
THIS WAS, AND IS, OUR WORLD--AND OURS ALONE
THROUGHOUT ALL THIS TIME, THERE HAS BEEN ONE THING THAT HAS REMAINED A CONSTANT


THANK YOU.
ALL RIGHT THEN, OSORO. THEN I'M GOING, OKAY?
.....
I..
...IS TO DO THAT WHICH YOU TRULY BELIEVE IN.
I WILL NO LONGER ASK THE IMPOSSIBLE OF YOU. ALL I ASK OF YOU NOW...
PRINCESS.. I AM GREATLY INDEBTED TO YOU
OH... MY..

Lake Biwa


!!
HUNNH..!
UNNH...!

ACCORDING TO ANCIENT TEXTS, DURING AN UPRISING IN THE MEIJI PERIOD, THE GEM WAS BURIED WITHIN THE DEPTHS OF THE LAKE BY A POWERFUL SEAL
ONE OF WHICH IS BURIED HERE
MY ANCESTORS WERE ENTRUSTED WITH TWO PIECES OF THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON--

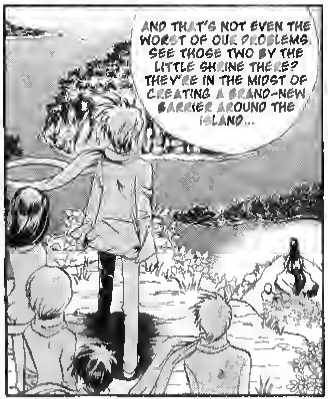
YES! I'M READY!
!!

UH?
JUST YOU WAIT, YOU CREATURES OF THE MOON! AS LONG AS I DRAW BREATH, YOU SHALL NOT DO AS YOU PLEASE!
EVEN IF MY LIFE IS FORFEIT--I WILL MAKE SURE THE ENTIRE LOT OF YOU PERISH!!
HMMPH!!

SO.
THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE SEAL IS SOMEWHERE ON THIS ISLAND, ISN'T IT?
YEAH, YEAH.

THAT'S RIGHT.
AND THOSE BASTARDS WILL SURELY COME HERE LOOKING FOR IT.

"THE KEY IS PROTECTED BY GREAT MAGIC. NO CREATURE SHALL BE ABLE TO TOUCH IT."
"TO DO SO BECKONS DEATH" OR SOMETHING TO THAT EFFECT


AND THAT'S NOT EVEN THE WORST OF OUR PROBLEMS. SEE THOSE TWO BY THE LITTLE SHRINE THERE? THEY'RE IN THE MIDST OF CREATING A BRAND-NEW BARRIER AROUND THE ISLAND...

WHAT?!
SO JUST BY TOUCHING IT WE CAN DIE?!

SO THE KEY THAT UNLOCKS THE SEAL IS SOMEWHERE ON THIS ISLAND

DIE?!
WELL, THAT'S NO GOOD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN... "STAKE HIS LIFE ON IT"?
IF WE TRY TO BREAK THROUGH THE BARRIER HEAD-ON, THE BOY WILL SURELY DIE
THERE, THERE.
I'M COLD, MAGUMI
.....
.....
THIS'LL ONLY MAKE KEIKO SAD AGAIN...
HUH. SO WHAT THIS BOILS DOWN TO IN THE END IS, EITHER WE DIE--OR HE DOES. RIGHT?
SIGH... WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS...?

THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON IS ON THAT ISLAND.
SO FOR US LUNAR FOLKS...
...IT'LL BE TOUGH TO SET FOOT THERE
BUT THE THING IS, THAT ISLAND ALREADY HAD A TERRIBLY POWERFUL SPELL UPON IT FROM HIS ANCESTOR'S DAYS.
EVEN FOR THE LIKES OF HIM, IT WOULD BE EASY TO STRENGTHEN THEIR EXISTING CHARM.
ESPECIALLY IF HE'S WILLING TO STAKE HIS LIFE ON IT.
AND ALL THIS TIME, I THOUGHT HOKUTO HAD BARELY A SLIVER OF MAGIC WITHIN HIM...

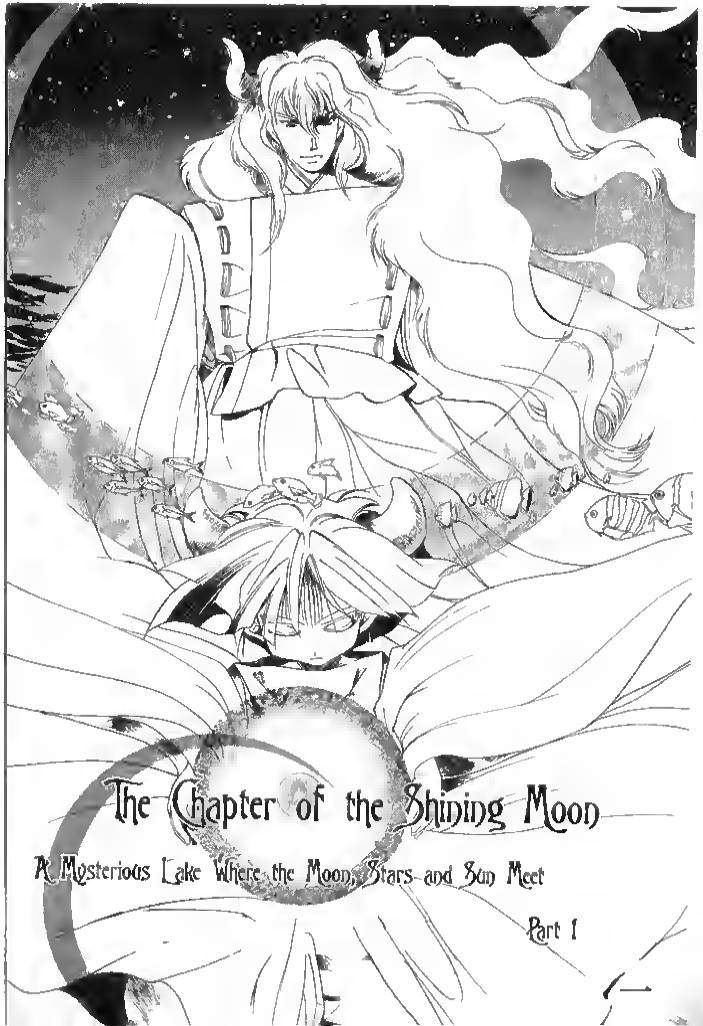
WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
SO... I'LL GO!!
DON'T YOU KNOW ONE HIT'LL TAKE YOU OUT IF YOU GET ATTACKED?! WERE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO YOUR OWN LECTURE?!
PLEASE, YOU GUYS...!! STOP TALKING ABOUT DYING, OKAY?!
DYING ISN'T OUR GOAL--- BUT LIVING IS!!
AS I STATED BEFORE, RIGHT NOW, I'M AS HUMAN AS THE PRINCESS
SO PERHAPS THE BARRIER WILL NOT AFFECT ME, THEN
WHAT?!
I'M SURE MY AUNT WAS DEVASTATED AS WELL WHEN SHE LOST MY MOTHER. SHE WAS THE ONLY FAMILY SHE HAD
IT'S AS IF I'M SEEING MY OWN MOTHER AGAIN...
I'LL GO
MISAKA! YOU'RE NOT THINKING...
...ABOUT THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY, ARE YOU?!
OH, MITSURU--- IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, OKAY?
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?!
BECAUSE I WON'T HAVE IT!!
PRINCESS...
ACTUALLY, MAHIRU--- I'M THE ONE WHO SAID IT
WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS SAY THINGS LIKE THAT?!
TSK.

I'LL NEED ALL OF YOUR HELP IF WE'RE TO SUCCESSFULLY INFILTRATE THE ISLAND.
ONCE WE'RE IN, I'LL NEED YOU TO SOMEHOW LEAD THEM AWAY FROM THE SHRINE ACTION THROUGH DISTRACTION, YOU KNOW?
YOU CAN'T SAY ANYTHING TO SWAY OUR RESOLVE LIKE THAT, HUH?
?
BUT, TO BE QUITE HONEST, YOU TWO MIGHT BE OUR ONLY CHANCE.
IT'S DO OR DIE TIME, GUYS! SO LET'S GIVE 'EM EVERYTHING WE'VE GOT!!

BUT HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?!
YEAH! YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE CLAWS OR FANGS OR WINGS, MAHIRU!!
THE PRINCESS IS GUIDING ME THROUGH THIS. SHE'LL OPEN UP THE PATH FOR ME--OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT SHE'S TELLING ME RIGHT NOW.
I CAN FEEL HER DEEP WITHIN MY HEART. I CAN FEEL THE PRINCESS' THOUGHTS RESONATING WITH MY OWN..

HUH?
PRINCESS.. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ACCOMPANY YOU.

THOUGH I NO LONGER POSSESS THE POWER OF MY PEOPLE..I AM STILL MORE EXPERIENCED IN BATTLE.
I KNOW THAT I WILL BE OF USE TO YOU IN SOME MANNER OR ANOTHER..SO PLEASE--LET ME GO WITH YOU!

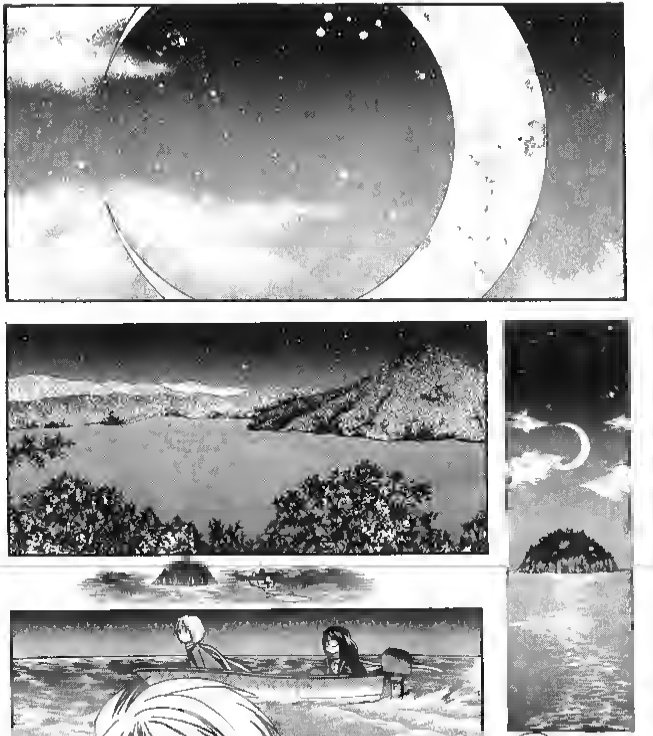


The Chapter of the Shining Moon

A Mysterious Lake Where the Moon, Stars and Sun Meet

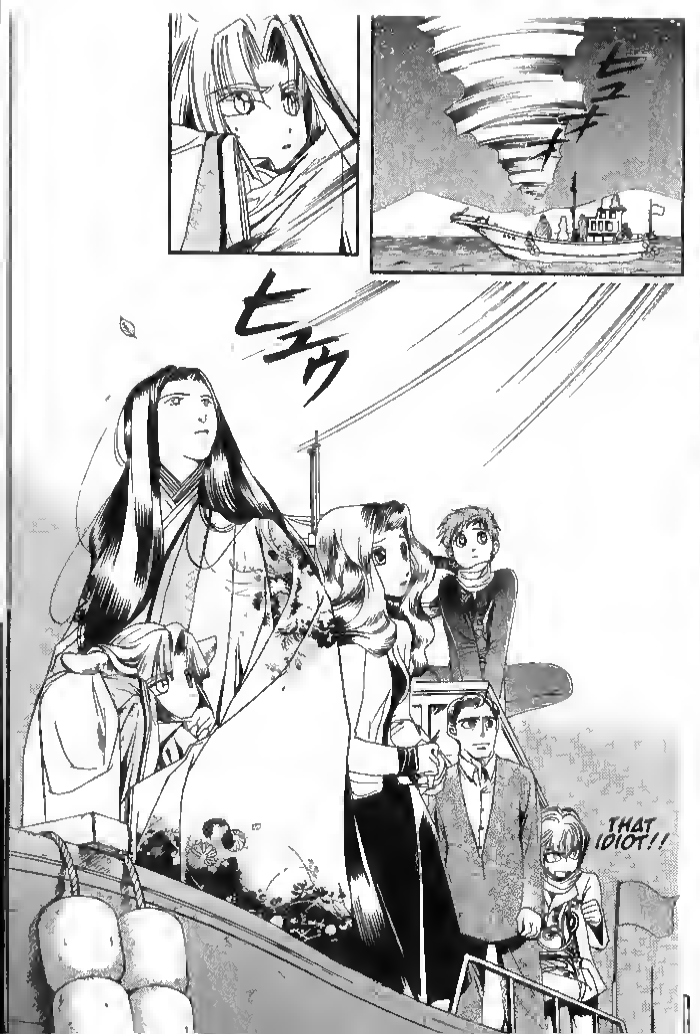
Part 1

OKAY, OKAY...! YOU'RE RIGHT. I'VE DEFINITELY HAD BETTER DAYS. BUT...IT'S NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE.
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE IN SO MUCH PAIN!!
MAYBE YOU'RE SUFFERING THE EFFECTS OF THE BARRIER AFTER ALL...
NO...I... I'M FINE.
...WE'RE GETTING CLOSER!
AND I KNOW WHY! IT'S BECAUSE...


YOU DON'T LOOK SO WELL, MISOKA.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?

MITSURU!! WHERE THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?!
WE CAN'T GO NEAR THAT ISLAND!!
I KNOW THAT!! I KNOW THAT AS MUCH AS WE WANT TO BE THERE...WE CAN'T!!

!
OKAY ! LOOKS LIKE THEY MADE IT!
MITSURU!!
MITSURU!!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ヒュウ
THAT IDIOT!!

BUT MAYBE IF I GO IN FROM THE SKY...I'LL BE ABLE TO GET CLOSER TO THEM!
BESIDES...IT'LL BE A BIT OVER-WHELMING FOR JUST THE TWO OF THEM, DON'T YOU THINK?!
MITSURU!!
MITSURU!!

IF WE CAN DESTROY JUST ONE OF THOSE STONE PILLARS, THE BARRIER SHOULD LOSE AT LEAST HALF ITS EFFECTIVENESS!
..WE'LL NEED TO SOMEHOW LURE HIM AWAY FROM THE CENTER OF THE CIRCLE!
BUT, TO SAVE THAT HUMAN'S LIFE .

YOU THINK THEY'LL REALLY COME...?
SLEEPY
PRINCESS...
THAT THING HOKUTO IS SITTING ON IS THE MAGIC CIRCLE IT FEEDS ENERGY INTO THE BARRIER

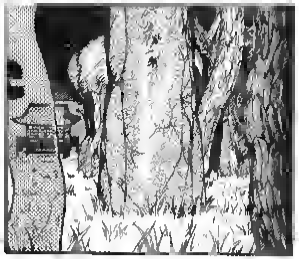
ピ
BUT!!
NO! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS!
ピ!!
とおん
ビュウウウ
LIGHTNING?!

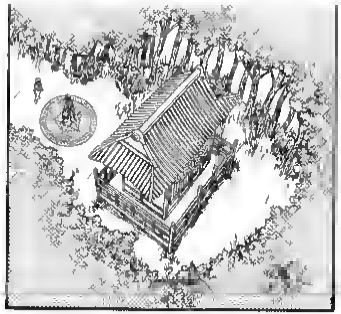
!
...AS SOON AS ONE OF THE PILLARS IS DESTROYED, HIS BODY WILL BE STRUCK BY A MASSIVE POWER SURGE.
THEN...
AND.
.. WHAT IF HE WON'T COME OUT?
I DOUBT A SHAMAN THAT YOUNG WILL BE ABLE TO BEAR SUCH STRAIN
THEN I GUESS I'D BETTER CONVINCE HIM TO COME OUT, HUH?

パアッ
シュウウウ
セコ
ビィン
HEH HEH THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED A BARRIER, IDIOT!!

MITSURU!!
ヒュウウウ
THAT DAMNED TENGU!!

WELL, MITSURU TOOK CARE OF ONE OF THEM, SO...
LET'S MOVE!
HAH!!
YOU...
MISOKA--YOU GO AROUND AND FLANK HIM!
AS SOON AS HE MOVES, DESTROY ONE OF THE STONE PILLARS, OKAY?!
PRINCESS!!
MITSURU! YOU'RE GOING TO BE A DECOY?!
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!!
MUTSURA!! STOP!!
YOU MUSTN'T WANDER AWAY FROM THE SHRINE!!
DON'T GO TOO FAR!!
UGH!
WHY YOU--!!
I'LL GET YOU THIS TIME!!



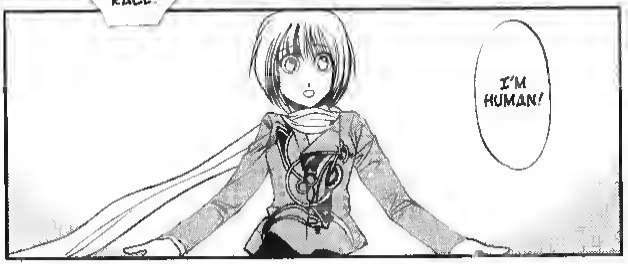


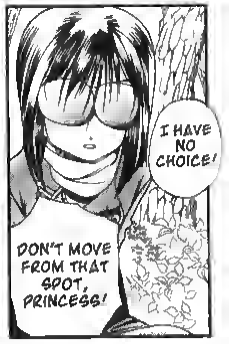
THAT'S RIGHT...
HOKUTO...
...I'M BEGGING YOU!! PLEASE--- LOWER THE BARRIER AROUND THE ISLAND!!
AREN'T YOU THAT HUMAN GIRL I SAW? THE ONE FROM KEIKO'S HIGH SCHOOL TRIP?

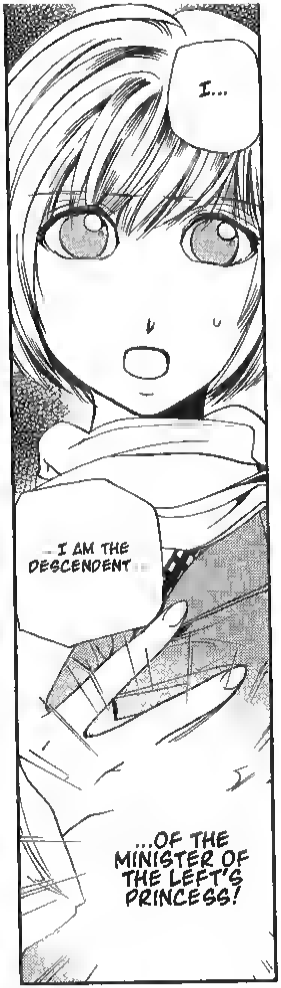
IF YOU'RE TRULY HUMAN AS YOU CLAIM, THEN WHY WOULD YOU SEEK TO AID THOSE ABOMINATIONS?!
JUST WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
YOU WANT ME TO DO WHAT?!

THE LUNAR RACE CANNOT PENETRATE THE BARRIER!!
HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET ON THIS ISLAND?
BUT I'M NOT OF THE LUNAR RACE.

...YOU'RE HOKUTO KOUDOKUI, AREN'T YOU?


I'M HUMAN!


I HAVE NO CHOICE!
DON'T MOVE FROM THAT SPOT, PRINCESS!


I...
...I AM THE DESCENDENT
...OF THE MINISTER OF THE LEFT'S PRINCESS!

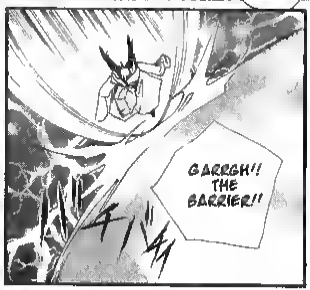
SO...I CAN'T DO IT!
I'M JUST A GIRL, AFTER ALL
BUT, I'VE LIVED WITH LUNAR PEOPLE FOR SOME TIME, NOW
I'VE WITNESSED THE BATTLE WAGED BETWEEN YOU AND THEM FIRST HAND
I ALSO KNOW HOW MUCH IT ALL HURTS HIMURA INSIDE

S-STAY AWAY!!
SO PLEASE-- LET'S STOP ALL OF THIS GENGELESS FIGHTING!!

DON'T C-COME ANY CLOSER!!
WHAT THE HELL DID HE DO NOW

I SAID STAY AWAY FROM ME!!

HOKUTO! WHAT'S GOING ON?!


GARRGH!! THE BARRIER!!

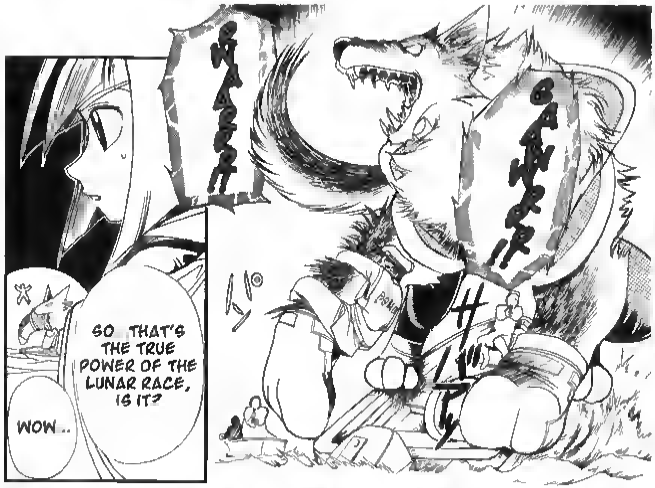
WAIT!!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE GOING AFTER ME!!

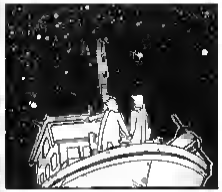
NO, MUTSURA!! DON'T SHOOT!!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!
WAAAH!!
WHAT THE ..?! WHAT'S THAT LIGHT?!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING

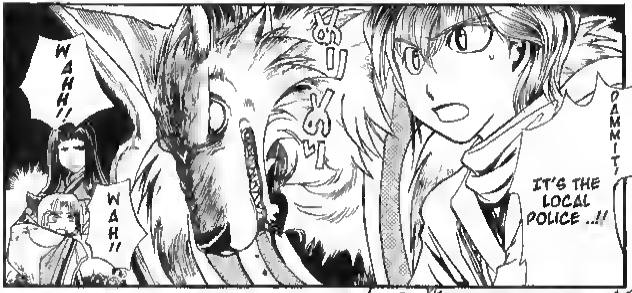
TAKE THAT!!
HEH!
URRGH!
HOKUTO!!
GRRR!

THEY... THEY MUST HAVE MANAGED TO DISABLE ONE OF THE FIVE PILLARS!
OH, NO!! THE BARRIER'S LOWERING!!
WHAT IS THAT?!
NOZOMU--BEHIND YOU!!
THE BARRIER'S GONE!! KICK ASS!! IT'S GO TIME, GUYS!!

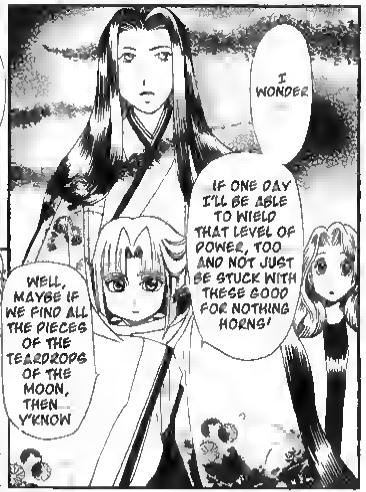
DAMMIT! I CAN'T SEE A THING!
THAT...
HE'S STEPPED OUT OF THE MAGIC CIRCLE!
NOW'S MY CHANCE! I CAN BLOW UP THE PILLAR WITH THIS POWDER!
OH NO!!
!!

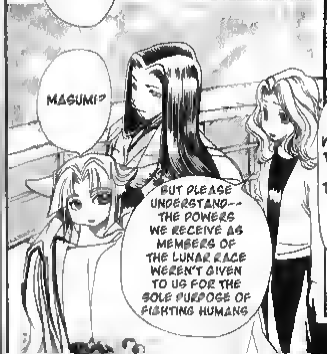

GRRR
GRRR
SO THAT'S THE TRUE POWER OF THE LUNAR RACE, IS IT?
WOW..



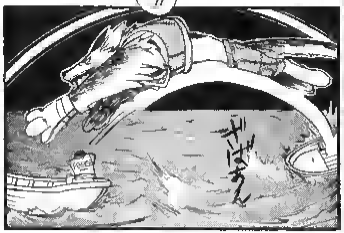

WAHH!!
WAH!!
DAMMIT
IT'S THE LOCAL POLICE..!!

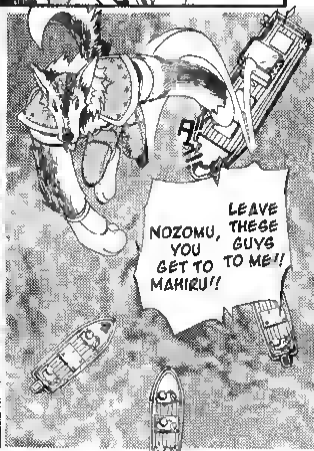
YES
OF COURSE YOU WILL, LORD SHIROGANE


I WONDER
IF ONE DAY I'LL BE ABLE TO WIELD THAT LEVEL OF POWER, TOO AND NOT JUST BE STUCK WITH THESE GOOD FOR NOTHING HORNS!
WELL, MAYBE IF WE FIND ALL THE PIECES OF THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON, THEN... Y'KNOW

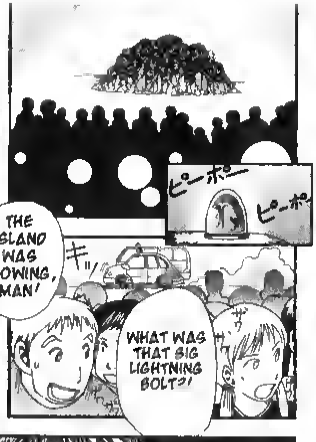

MASUMI?
BUT PLEASE UNDERSTAND-- THE POWERS WE RECEIVE AS MEMBERS OF THE LUNAR RACE WEREN'T GIVEN TO US FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF FIGHTING HUMANS

WAH!!
WAH!!




NOZOMU, YOU GET TO MAHIRU!!
LEAVE THESE GUYS TO ME!!

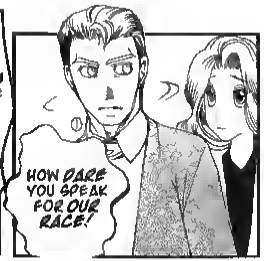
WAIT...I WANT TO GO, TOO!
YOU WAIT HERE, ALL RIGHT, LITTLE LADY?


ピーポー
ピーポ
THE ISLAND WAS GLOWING, MAN!
WHAT WAS THAT BIG LIGHTNING BOLT?!

HUH? KEIKO? WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
HEH!
DAMN!
THEY'VE GONE AND STARTED WITHOUT US!

TAKE ME WITH YOU!
PLEASE, INSPECTOR!

WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF THE PAIN AND STRUGGLES WE FACE DAILY AT THE MOON PALACE?!


HOW DARE YOU SPEAK FOR OUR RACE!

AFTER WE LOST THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON, WE LOST THE POWER THAT WAS RIGHTFULLY OURS!
AND BECAUSE OF THAT, WE WERE DESTINED TO WASTE AWAY, UNABLE TO DEFEND OURSELVES FROM EVEN THOSE WEAK, DESPICABLE HUMANS!
BUT MARK MY WORDS--ONCE OUR POWER IS RESTORED, THEY'LL NOT HAVE THEIR WAY WITH US ANY LONGER!!

HAH!
MY POWER..! IT CAN'T BE!!
!!
ズッ
PLEASE...
THAT'S RIGHT..
YOU MUST BREAK THAT MIRROR..!
YOU MUST.. HURRY..!
カッ

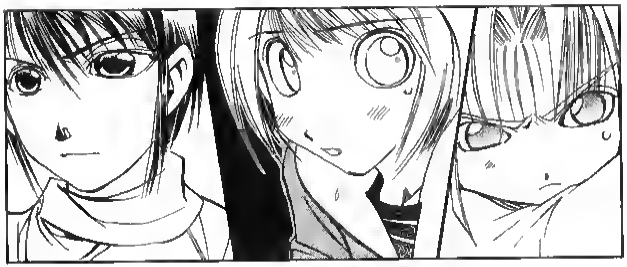
OPEN THE DOORS TO THE SHRINE!
THAT VOICE.. THAT'S THE PRINCESS!
ふらり。
WAIT!
ダダダダダ
I'LL NEVER LET YOU HARM THE PRINCESS!!
YOU!!
ばぁ
あっ

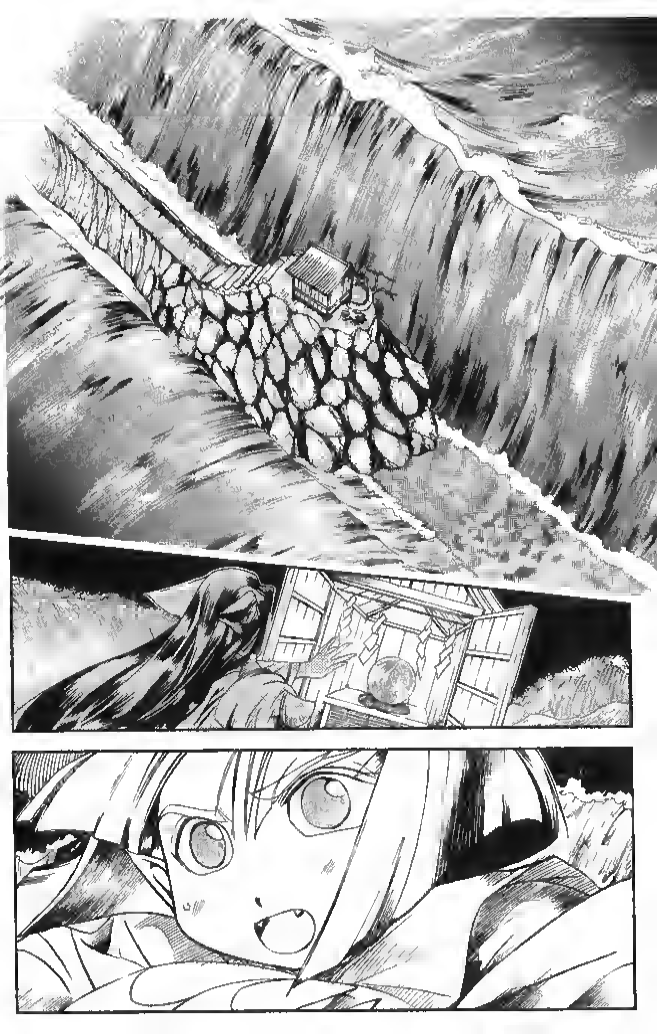
The Chapter of the Shining Moon Part 1 The End

The Chapter of the Shining Moon.

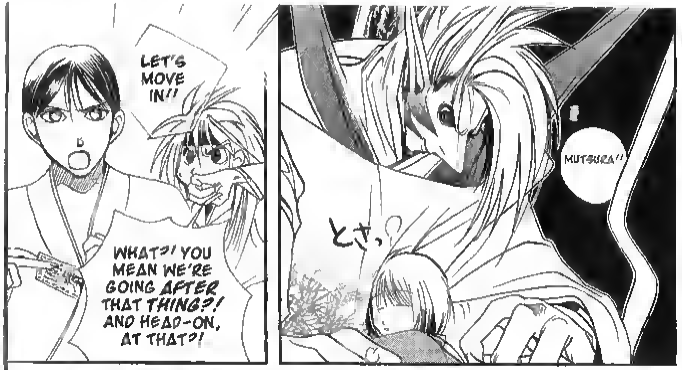
A Mysterious Lake Where the Moon, Stars and Sun Meet

Part 2



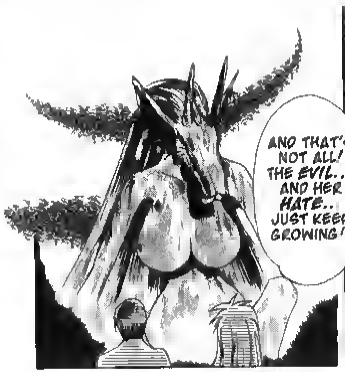
STOP IT, MASUMI!!
NOOO!!
WAAHH!!
WHAT THE HELL?!
WHAT IS THAT LIGHT?!


!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?!
I HAD NO IDEA THERE WAS SO MUCH POWER SEALED IN ONE OF THOSE DAMN GEMS!!
AUNTIE...? NO!! IT'S NOT HER!!!


LET'S MOVE IN!!
WHAT?! YOU MEAN WE'RE GOING AFTER THAT THING?! AND HEAD-ON, AT THAT?!
MUTSUKI!!
とす。

!
WAIT! I'LL GO..!
WAIT...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! HOW THE HELL ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO FACE SOMETHING LIKE LIKE THAT?!
CAN YOU TAKE ME THERE...?!


AND THAT'S NOT ALL! THE EVIL... AND HER HATE.. JUST KEEP GROWING!!

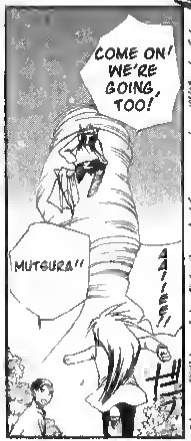
NO...THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE, TOO SOMETHING EVIL THAT'S LENDING ITS STRENGTH TO HER!

I.. I'M FINE.
Princess
MAHIRU... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

GYOOOHHH!!!
カキィ

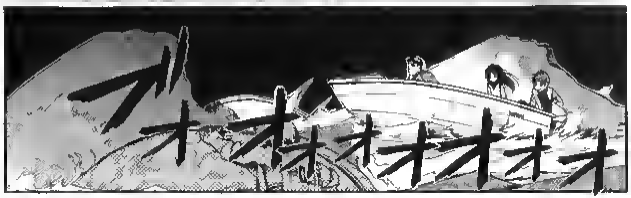
PLEASE HELP ME!
キラ!
HELP ME...
BECAUSE I CAN HEAR HIM...
カタ
……

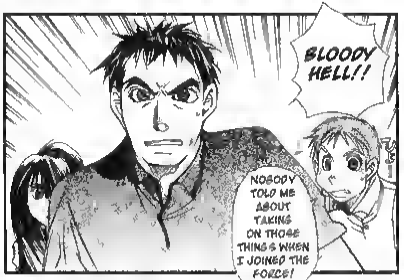
HATE...
I HATE THEM...
THOSE PESKY HUMANS!
HATE...


COME ON! WE'RE GOING, TOO!
MUTSURA!!
AIIEE!!
ガラ

PLEASE, MITSURU!
ビュ!!

PLEASE... SOMEONE...
HELP ME...
HELP ME...




BLOODY HELL!!
NOBODY TOLD ME ABOUT TAKING ON THOSE THINGS WHEN I JOINED THE FORCE!

I HATE EVERYTHING!
I HATE
I WANT EVERYTHING TO BREAK I WANT TO BREAK EVERYTHING! RUIN ALL I SEE!

IT...

IT'S A MONSTER!!

I'VE ALWAYS... HAD TO BE... THE ONE TO SUFFER...
I'LL DESTROY EVERYTHING... BREAK IT ALL...I HATE EVERYTHING...
WE'VE ALL GOT TO GET INTO GEAR AND HELP OUT!!
UWAAHH!!
WAAH!
GWAAHHH!! IT'S NO USE!!
ガッ
ガン
WAHH!!
URGH!!
ウウウ
ヒュー

!!
DON'T WORRY.. BE BRAVE... BELIEVE IN YOUR FRIENDS..
I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT...
PRINCESS, PRINCESS, WHY DO YOU SMILE?
NOW SING. THAT SONG.
...JUST AS I HAVE...

WHAT IS THIS THING?! IS IT MASUMI?! IS IT THE GREAT EMPRESS?! OR IS IT SHIROGANE?!
IT'S JUST...
NO...IT'S NOT ANY OF THEM..
...JUST A MASS OF SORROW AND HATRED!
I NEED.. MORE POWER...
KYAH!
I WANT TO BE...FREE!
MITSURU, LOOK OUT!!
OF SORROW AND HATRED?! WHAT THE...?!
ずばあっ

...BEHIND THE SHADE OF THE BAMBOO BLINDS?
PRINCESS, PRINCESS, WHY DO YOU CRY..
. I MADE A PROMISE WITH A DEMON BOY.
IN THE FOREST PAINTED BY THE SETTING SUN
ゴボォッ
BUT... BUT THIS CAN'T BE...! THE SECOND VERSE IS "WHY DO YOU SMILE?"
THIS SONG IS SUPPOSED TO TELL THE STORY OF SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED A THOUSAND YEARS AGO
..THE FIRST VERSE WAS, "PRINCESS, PRINCESS, WHY DO YOU CRY?"
YOU'RE RIGHT! AS I RECALL...
THAT SONG..BUT THE LYRICS... THE LYRICS ARE SUDDENLY DIFFERENT...

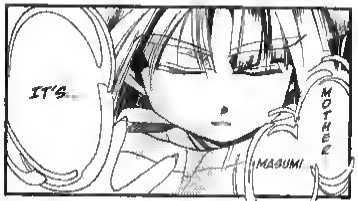
HOW...HOW DARE YOU SAY SUCH THINGS...!!

PRINCESS, PRINCESS, WHY DO YOU CRY?
IN THE DEEPEST DEPTHS OF THE MOUNTAINS...

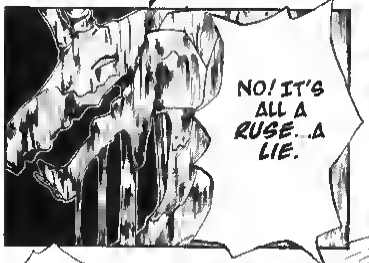
HUH? THE TEARDROP OF THE MOON IS...?!

MITSURU...
I NEED YOU TO SING, TOO!
PLEASE!
HUH...? ER... O-OKAY...

I... I LOVED HIM VERY MUCH BUT IT WAS A LOVE THAT WASN'T MEANT TO BE
AND THOUGH MANY TRY TO BLAME ONE PERSON... IT WASN'T THE DOING OF JUST ONE
NOT MY FATHER. NOT THE EMPEROR EVERYONE... EVERYONE ACTED ON WHAT THEY THOUGHT WERE THE BEST INTENTIONS
AND SOMEHOW, ALL THEIR GOOD DEEDS..
...ENDED IN CONFLICT.

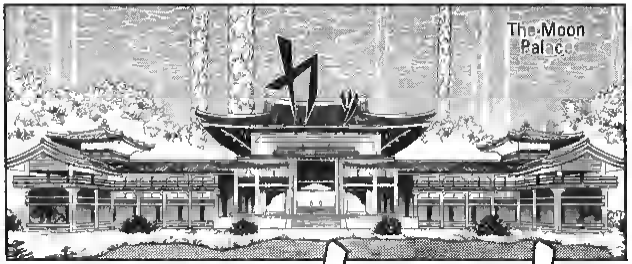

IT'S...
MOTHER
MAGUMI...

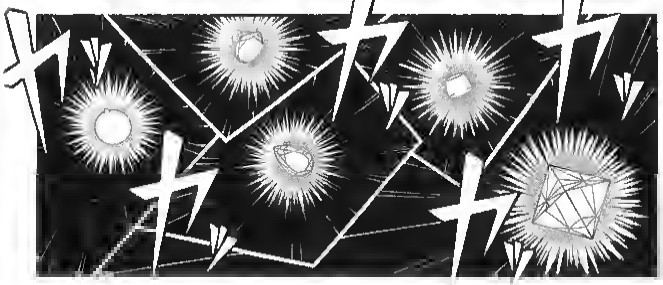
..IT'S OVER..! SO PLEASE--- STOP!!

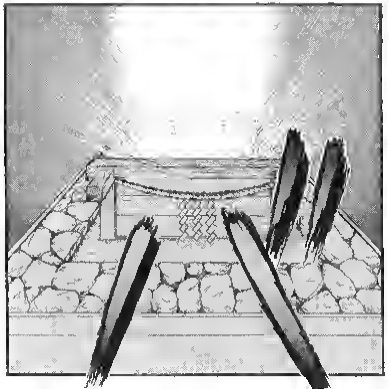

NO! IT'S ALL A RUSE...A LIE.

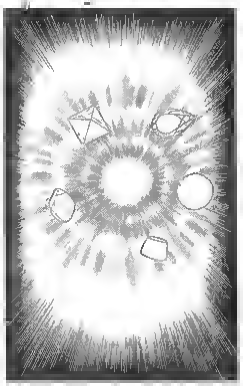
I AM NOT WRONG! I WAS NOT WRONG!
I WAAAAGG

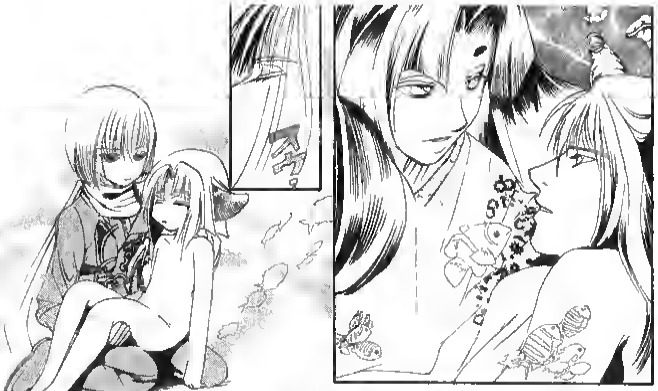
N-NO!! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT!!
STOP...!!
I..I WAS NOT WRONG I WAS NOT MISTAKEN...

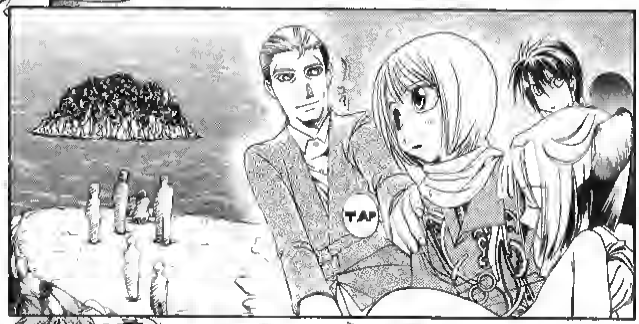

The Moon Palace







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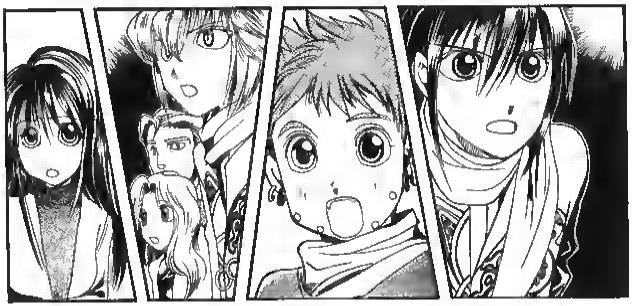
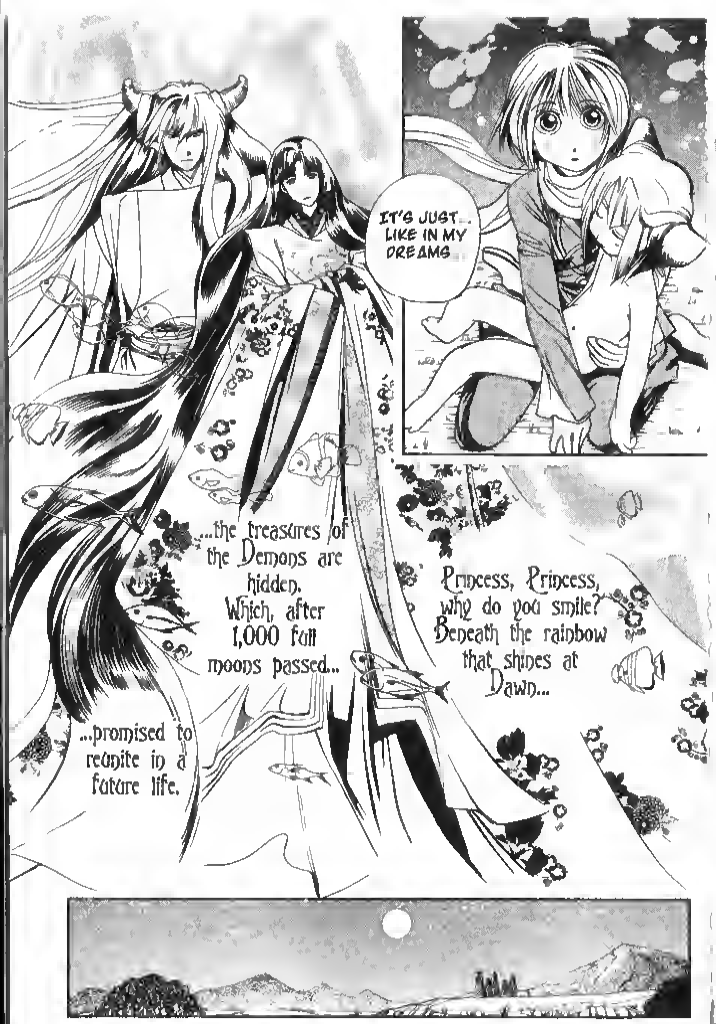


I..I..
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

YOUR HIGHNESS!!
コロン


IT'S JUST... LIKE IN MY DREAMS
...the treasures of the Demons are hidden. Which, after 1,000 full moons passed...
...promised to reunite in a future life.
Princess, Princess, why do you smile? Beneath the rainbow that shines at Dawn...

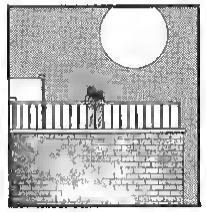
MY DEAR, BRAVE, YOUNG SHAMAN... KNOW THAT YOUR ANCESTORS WERE SO VERY KIND...
BUT ALSO TRY TO REMEMBER THE TRUTH OF WHOM AND WHAT YOU ARE... KNOW YOUR TRUE CALLING
MY TRUE CALLING...?
THE "MORNING STAR" AND THE "EVENING STAR" ARE ONE AND THE SAME.
I I THINK I UNDER-STAND...
I THINK WHAT SHE MEANS IS...
...THAT WE AREN'T JUST THE MOON OR THE SUN.
WE'RE THE STARS WHO PROTECT THE LINE THAT SEPARATES DAY FROM NIGHT!
KUSAKABE! LOOK!!
FISH!!

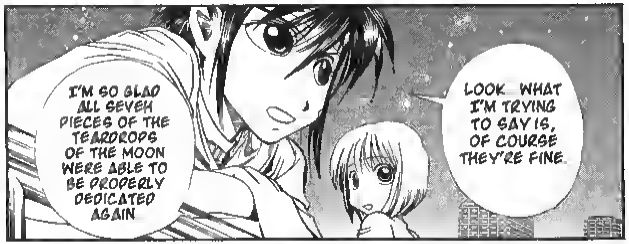
...AND THOSE POLICEMEN, AS WELL. THEY'LL ALL NEED TO PLAY A PART IN THIS.
I'D REALLY LIKE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT FURTHER. ABOUT WHAT I CAN DO TO HELP. I HAVE THIS FEELING THAT TO REALLY MAKE THINGS WORK, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO INVOLVE THE MEMBERS OF DAWN'S VENUS
AFTER EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH... WITH THAT WHOLE THING ABOUT BEING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE LUNAR RACE AND HUMANS I .

SO I THINK IT'S BETTER FOR ME TO LEAVE FOR A WHILE SO I CAN THINK THINGS THROUGH.

SO THAT'S HOW IT ENDS, HUH? THE PRINCESS AND THE YOUNG DEMON WERE SUCCESSFULLY REUNITED AND LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER...
.....
YEAH, I GUESS... EXCEPT YOU'RE OFF AND RUNNING AWAY WITH YOUR SELFISH LITTLE SELF, AREN'T YOU?
TAH

I WONDER HOW THE EMPEROR AND OSORO ARE DOING.
SHEESH ... / IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN TEN DAYS SINCE EVERYTHING WENT DOWN! RELAX, WILL YA?!




I'M SO GLAD ALL SEVEN PIECES OF THE TEARDROPS OF THE MOON WERE ABLE TO BE PROPERLY DEDICATED AGAIN
LOOK... WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS, OF COURSE THEY'RE FINE.

WE'VE GONE THROUGH A LOT BUT I SUPPOSE THIS IS THE END, ISN'T IT? AT LEAST FOR OUR QUEST FOR THE TEARDROPS.
YEAH.
WELL, IN THAT CASE I SUPPOSE I SHOULD GO HOME FOR A BIT

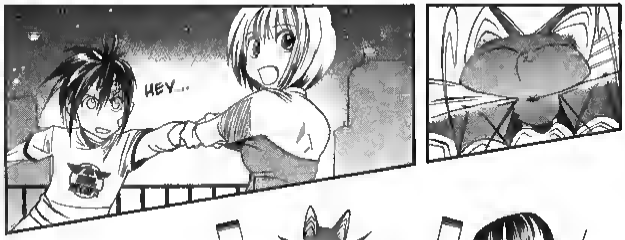
I'M HAPPY THAT THE LIGHT RETURNED.
TO THE SHARD IN TIME TO SAVE YOUR LIFE, AS WELL

FREEZE
ぱたん
HOW'S ABOUT WE ALL SING, THEN?
そそくさ
そそくさ
MY POWERS WERE RETURNED TO ME, SO MY DUTIES AS A MEMBER OF THE LUNAR RACE MUST NOT BE OVER YET.
OUR JOURNEYS WILL CONTINUE FOR THE PRINCESS AND YOU... AND FOR AKIRA AND THE OTHERS AS WELL
!
THAT'S RIGHT, MY FRIEND I SAID, "FOR THE PRINCESS AND YOU."

BECAUSE THIS ISN'T AN ENDING--IT'S A BEGINNING. BECAUSE I WANT TO KEEP ON LIVING WITH MY FRIENDS... AND WITH YOU, MITSURU
LOOK... I WON'T ALLOW THINGS TO END LIKE THIS!
MAHIRU.
MITSURU
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK. MY LOVE WOULD YOU SING A SONG JUST FOR ME?
ぎゅっ

Nozomu Moegi
Akira Yamabuki
TAP! TAP!!
Misoka Asagi
Mitsuru Suou
Mahiru Shiraishi

WELL, GUESS IT'S TIME TO START SINGING, THEN!
MITSURU AND MAHIRU! YOU, TOO!! EVERYBODY--ALL TOGETHER NOW!


HEY...

BUT I MUST SAY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR STICKING IT OUT TO THE END OF THE FIRST PART OF "CRESCENT MOON"

MY SKIN'S ALL MESSED UP FROM NOT GETTING ENOUGH SLEEP

HELLO EVERYONE! GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN! IT'S ME, TAKAMURA MATSUDA I'VE FINALLY HAD MY BABY AND ALL IS WELL! ♡

ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 20TH

AND INDEED, MY DAUGHTER WAS BORN DURING A NEW MOON AS THE TIDE FLOWED

SUUUP!

IT'S BEEN SAID MOST WOMEN HAVE THEIR BABIES DURING A FULL OR NEW MOON... OR THAT "WE ARE BORN WHEN THE TIDE FLOWS AND DIE WHEN THE TIDE EBBS"

TAKAMURA-SAN, CONGRATULATIONS! CLAPPY CLAPPY

WHAT?!

IT'S A BEAUTIFUL BABY GIRL! ♡

NOW I KNOW AT THE END OF VOLUME 5, I MENTIONED I WAS GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE BOY, BUT...

WAIT--SO WHAT WAS THAT THAT WE SAW DURING THE ULTRASOUND?

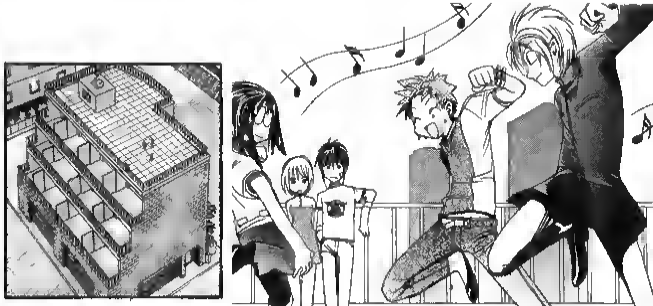
PERHAPS IT CAN BE SAID, THEN, THAT ALTHOUGH THESE EVENTS TOOK PLACE HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO, THERE IS A LITTLE PIECE OF OUR SOULS AND BODIES THAT STILL REMEMBER THAT MOMENT...

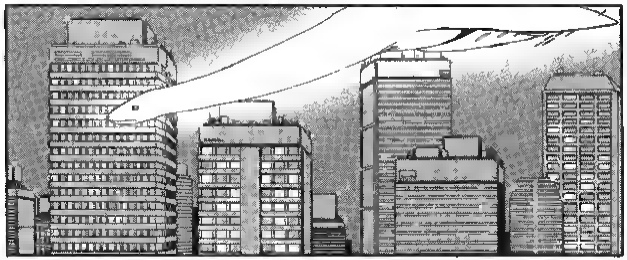
IT'S BELIEVED THAT DURING THIS GREAT FLOW OF THE TIDES, THE VERY FIRST SLIVERS OF LIFE BEGAN.

IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE MOON WAS CLOSER TO THE EARTH THAN IT IS NOW. AND ITS EFFECT ON THE TIDE'S EBB AND FLOW WAS MUCH GREATER.

AND ON THAT NOTE--I HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOON!

OINK!

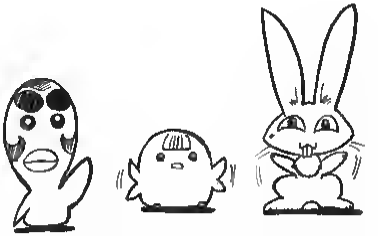




The Chapter of the Shining Moon Part 2 The End

The End

TO ALL OUR READERS, AND EVERYONE INVOLVED IN THIS PROJECT--THIS TRULY WAS A GREAT BOOK TO WORK ON!! GOOD JOB, MATSUDA-SAN!! ***THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!*** BY THE WAY, KOU WILL BE LEAVING FOR NEW HORIZONS. THIS WILL BE HER FINAL VOLUME WITH US. BUT IF YOU SEE HER SOMEWHERE ELSE, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF HER THERE, TOO!



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In a desperate move, Nozomu and the Moonlight Bandits send Hokuto and Mutsura a ransom note, telling them to bring the stolen Teardrop of the Moon to a prearranged location, or Hokuto's fiancée will be killed. Meanwhile, Mahiru is guided by a friendly spirit to Lake Biwa, the resting place of the seventh and final Teardrop of the Moon--but it is a place where danger awaits as well. Now Mahiru and her companions must find a way to break the magical seal protecting the Teardrop... before it's too late!

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